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Greenwich Part 3

Views from Hill, Sundial, Vanbrugh Castle, Roman Remains, Flower Garden, Ancient trees, Bandstand, One Tree Hill, Drinking Fountain & Deer Trough, Deer Enclosure

Word count:

Dates as 2 words - 1945 = nineteen forty-five

Monarchs as 3 words - Henry VIII = Henry The Eighth

Some hyphenated words counted as 2 = boat-shaped

Paragraph numbers not included

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PDF Date: 12 April 2023

Handwritten shorthand notes in blue ink on lined paper, corresponding to the text on the left.

32. Beyond the Observatory the land falls steeply to river level, over a large grassed area, leading to the Queen's House. This was at one time* cut into giant steps, with a slope in the centre for walking down. The steps have since collapsed through natural erosion, but their shadows can sometimes be seen from below when the light is right. Beyond is the Old Royal Naval College, designed by Sir Christopher Wren in 1694 to serve as a Royal Hospital for Seamen. It occupies the site of the former Palace of

Placentia, King Henry VIII's favourite palace. The buildings are now managed by the Greenwich Foundation. Behind that is the River Thames and the Isle of Dogs and Docklands, with the bend in the river on the left passing Deptford* and leading to Central London.

* "at one time" Halving to represent the T of "time"

* "Deptford" The P is not pronounced

Horizontal lines for writing practice below the text.

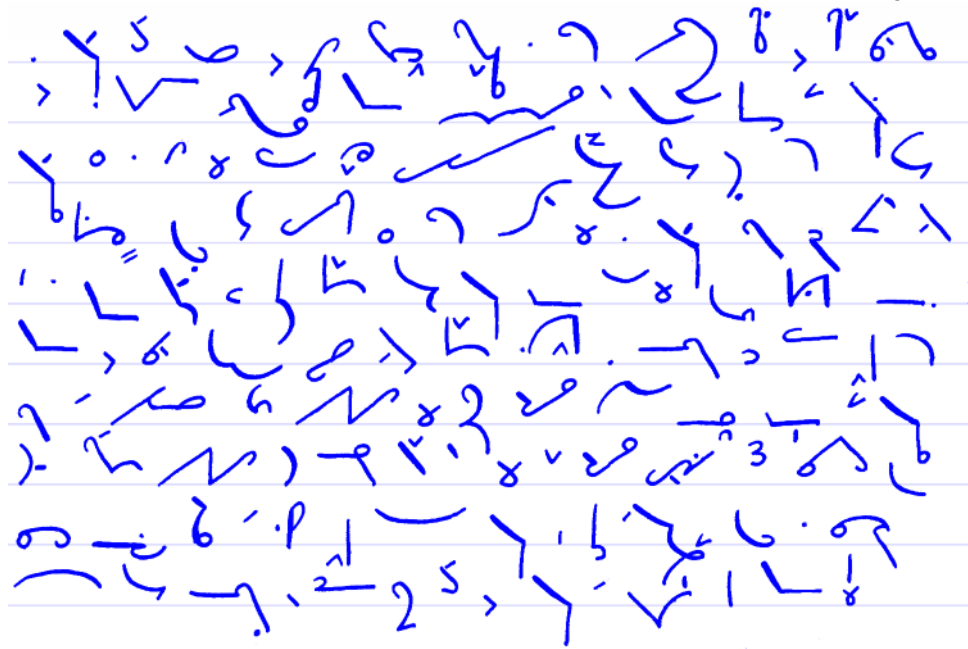
Handwritten shorthand notes in blue ink on lined paper, corresponding to the text on the right.

33. In the north-east corner of the park is a children's playground, which started in 1900 as a sandpit to be a "seaside in the park." In the distance are the towers of Canary Wharf on the Isle of Dogs on the former marshes on the north side of the Thames. This was the first part of London to have such tall buildings spring up, and the outlook from the park has changed dramatically since these skyscrapers have made their looming presence felt. Instead

of views reaching into the distance, beyond London and on to Essex, these buildings seem to bring the other side of the Thames nearer and interrupt the spacious views that the inhabitants of Greenwich have enjoyed throughout history. It is possible that the* Isle of Dogs was so called because Henry VIII, and possibly other royalty, kept hunting dogs there, to be fetched whenever they were needed.

* Omission phrase "it is poss(ible) that the"

Horizontal lines for writing practice below the text.



34. The boating pond next to the children's playground provides a very refreshing contrast to the dry slopes of the park and brings back memories of being taken on the pedal* boats as a child. In our* minds we were voyaging over the sea or along the Thames, even though the water is very shallow. The boat number would be chalked up on a big board when it was time for that boat to come in. If you delayed coming back to the hut, having used up the time allowed, the keeper would call out your number and request that you return. There were* always long queues to go on the

boats, so prompt return was expected by all. I always wondered what would happen if someone ignored all this and stayed out in their* boat, but it would obviously have been a simple matter for the keeper to walk through the pond to the boat and pull it back!

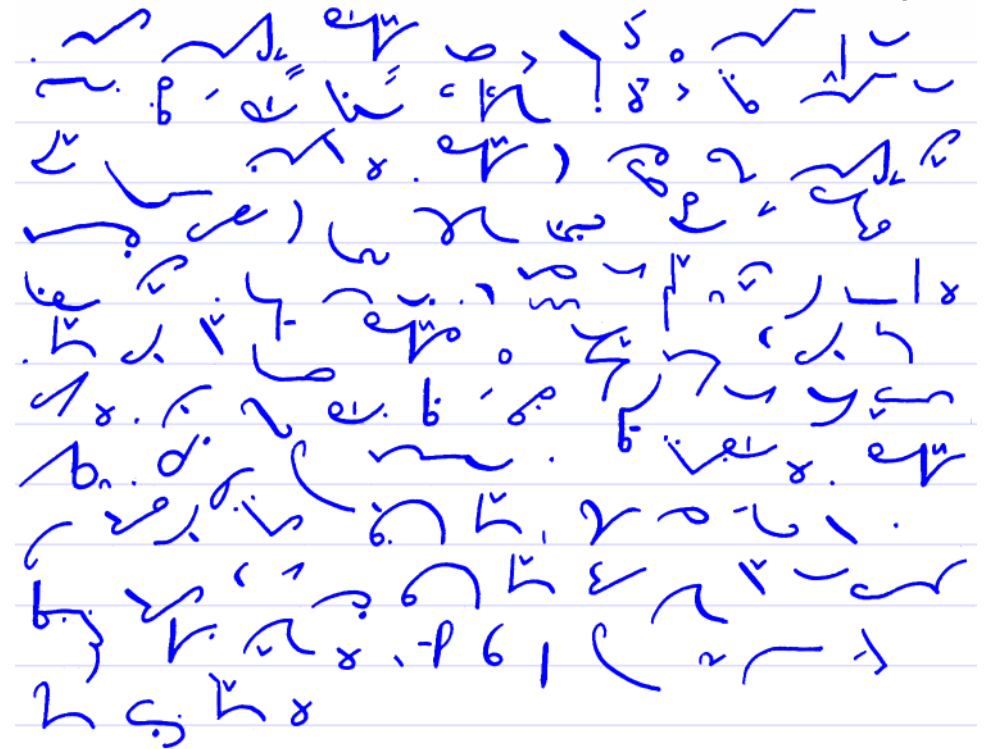
* "pedal" Insert the vowel in this and "paddle"

* "in our " R Hook to represent "our"

* Omission phrase "there (w)ere"

* "in their" Doubling to represent "their"

Blank lined area for writing notes.



35. The modern Meridian Sundial next to the boating pond is marked out in granite setts and stone paving*, with twelve points of the compass marked in shiny pink marble. The sundial was misplaced from the meridian line two metres westward, so if you have yourself photographed standing on the northwards-facing line, the photo may need the word "almost" in the title you might wish to give it. The time shown by fixed sundials is unlikely to match that shown on your watch. The low number of sunny days, and hence shadows, in the

English climate reduces the chances still further of making a comparison. The sundial will always show apparent solar time, but there will most often be a discrepancy between that and the mean solar time that we live by in normal daily life. To study this difference further, you should look up the term "equation of time".

* "paving" Keep the Ing proper length and thick, so it does not look like a halved N, which would be "pave(m)ent". Halved N used for "-ment" is never vocalised.

Blank lined area for writing notes.

36. We return to the top of the park, and start another journey through Vanbrugh Park Gate at the very top of Maze Hill where it joins the heath. Going straight ahead through the gate leads to the ornamental gardens, but the part visible through the gateway in the photo is a long path parallel to the wall, lined with rows of

mature trees. Having taken the route down the avenue, the second picture is the view looking back, with the park wall and Maze Hill now on the left. The trees are well managed, and there are many newly-planted saplings to replace the old trees that have died. The ornamental gardens are in the distance to the right.

37. At the end of the avenue of trees there is a grander gate to the park. This is situated immediately opposite Vanbrugh Castle - not actually a castle but a house built to resemble a fortress by the architect Sir John Vanbrugh. Vanbrugh assisted Sir Christopher Wren as surveyor to Greenwich Hospital and was the architect of Blenheim Palace, Castle Howard and Seaton Delaval Hall. At the time, his house would have

enjoyed more extensive views over the park and Greenwich, and it would of course have been surrounded by countryside and not the suburbs of London, as it is now. It has had a variety of uses and is now converted into apartments, and so is continuing its function purely* as a place of residence.

* "purely/pure" Distinguishing outlines, "poor/poorly" use downward Ar.

Handwritten Pitman's shorthand notes in blue ink on lined paper. The notes include the year '1902' and '1978', and the word 'ad'. The shorthand is dense and covers most of the page.

38. This small square of land* enclosed in iron railings is the location of the remains* of a Roman* temple. The remains were accidentally discovered during normal park work in 1902 and revealed three pieces of flooring, at which time it was thought to be a villa. The piece now visible amongst the grass is part of the reconstructed tessellated tile floor. Subsequent investigations in 1978 and 2000 found the corner of a building, fragments of painted wall plaster, stone inscriptions, a stamped tile, a marble tablet*, the arm of a statue, pottery and animal bones. More than 300

coins were found, dating throughout the first four centuries AD, which suggests the site was in constant use by Romans and Britons for that entire period.

* "of land" No phrased, as that would look like "island" which could also make sense here

* "remains" "Roman" Best vocalised in an archaeological context in order to distinguish

* "tablet" Insert the last vowel, as it is similar to "table" and "tableau"

Handwritten Pitman's shorthand notes in blue ink on lined paper. The notes include the year '43 ad' and '90'. The shorthand is dense and covers most of the page.

39. The noticeboard details the known history and the finds, and shows a painting of how the temple might have looked, provided by the archaeology television programme that undertook the excavations in 2000. The London area has been settled since prehistoric times, with the forests, marshes and river providing a wide diversity of food and resources. The River Thames was much shallower and wider in the past, with tributaries, islands and marshes on both sides. There was no large settlement at London until the Romans arrived in approximately 43 AD. The temple is positioned on the route of the old Watling* Street. This is believed to have started as a trackway used by the ancient Britons, which the Romans improved and

paved for their own military use. It continues southwards along Old Dover Road in Blackheath, over Shooters Hill and on to Canterbury and the Kent coast. Northwards it goes to St Albans and on to Wales*. The term "street" means a paved road, from the Latin word "stratum" meaning flat.

* "Watling" Outline reflects derivation. The words "wattle, wattling" etc" have T with L hook"

* "Wales" Distinguishing outline for this placename, the town "Wells" has the Wel stroke. The nouns wells, wales (=weals, scars) have the Wel stroke as per normal theory.

Handwritten shorthand for paragraph 40, consisting of approximately 12 lines of dense, cursive shorthand symbols.

40. Circular flower beds are dotted around throughout the ornamental gardens, with bold displays in the traditional Victorian style. With such a large area to cover, bold is the only style that will make any impact amongst the mature trees. The borders are filled with a wide variety of flowering shrubs, and there are sections where grit paths wind around behind the shrub borders, ideal for hide and seek or to enjoy a shady walk. In the centre is a large duck pond with a fountain, Canada geese, ducks, pigeons and crows. The pigeons seem to have an easy life here, helping themselves to duck bread and squirrel nuts provided by the visitors, and taking naps on the grass,

unconcerned by passing people. There is a heather bed near the pond with a continuous soft cover of brilliant yellow, green, white and purple, which looks as if someone has turned a spotlight on it. Blackheath is named after the dark-coloured heather that grew on the wasteland of stony barren soil but these* modern cultivars* are far removed from that.

* "but these" Insert the vowel as "but those" would also make sense

* "cultivars" This portmanteau word means cultivated varieties

Handwritten shorthand for paragraph 41, consisting of approximately 12 lines of dense, cursive shorthand symbols.

41. The park has a large number of ancient trees of enormous girth. Each time you think you have discovered the biggest and oldest, a short walk will present another contender for the title. I am sure that many people are convinced they have met an ancient oak tree, but a glance at the leaves shows that most of them are chestnuts*. Their shapes and textures* are fascinating, and the swirling folds and layers of wood seem to flow down like striped lava. One cannot help but wonder how long ago it was that each of these trees started its precarious journey of growth from seedling

or newly-planted cutting, and what the park, the surroundings and the daily lives of the inhabitants were like at the time. Trees and forests were the supermarket of their day, full of valuable resources. Everything in them was used to its fullest extent but in the case of this park everything belonged to the king.

* "chestnuts" Omits the first T

* "textures" The singular "texture" has the U diphthong written through the end of the stroke

44. These acorns have accumulated at the
 foot of an ancient oak and will feed the
 squirrels. Any new trees will be those
 planted by the gardeners, and not by
 random growth from seeds. All the trees
 are well looked after, and replacements are
 planted as needed. In such a large park,
 the trees have plenty of space around them,
 giving them the maximum potential to
 grow to their full size and shape. The open
 nature of most of the planting means that
 the grasses survive very well* right up to

the trees, so that the park is entirely
 covered in green, with no bare patches
 except in the few thickets that exist. Some
 of the evergreen* firs in the ornamental
 garden do reach to the ground and in the
 dark interior is a thick layer of fir needles,
 providing a soft base for children playing
 and hiding inside.

* Omission phrase "very (w)ell"
 * "evergreen" Insert the last vowel in this
 and in "overgrown" in order to distinguish

45. The octagonal cast-iron bandstand* is
 situated on the south side of Great Cross
 Avenue. It dates from 1891 and is a Grade
 II listed monument*. Sunday concerts are
 held during summer. On a calm summer
 day we could sometimes hear the faint
 sounds of the band at our home several
 streets away. Every visit to the park began
 with listening for any possible music
 coming from that direction, and, if heard,
 we would make our way to the bandstand*
 instead of the flower gardens. The stand

would be surrounded by a circular sea of
 deckchairs and an atmosphere of contented
 relaxation and friendliness, reminiscent of a
 family outing to the seaside.

* "ba(n)dstand" Optional contraction
 * "we could" Not phrased, so it does not
 look like "we can"
 * "monument" The U diphthong cannot be
 placed against the final halved N because
 here that stroke represents "-ment"

2
 76
 1848
 1857

46. Towards the north-east corner of the park is One Tree Hill. There is more than one tree on this hill now, and the tree in the photo is doing its best to look the part, but cannot possibly be old enough to bear the title - in fact* the "One Tree" blew down in 1848. In past centuries this hill was used on public holidays for the sport of tumbling, when men and women* joined hands and all ran, and rolled, down the hill for fun, not entirely without serious injury at times. One can imagine people joining in against their better judgement, as people do when in crowds, and the ladies revealing

ankles and legs at a time when their normal dress would not have permitted such indecorous sights. These games were part of the twice-yearly Greenwich Fair, which grew from a genteel* event to a crowded, rowdy and disorderly one, and which was eventually banned by the Victorians in 1857.

* Omission phrases "in (f)act" "men (and) women"

* "genteel" Insert the second vowel, so that it does not look like "gentle"

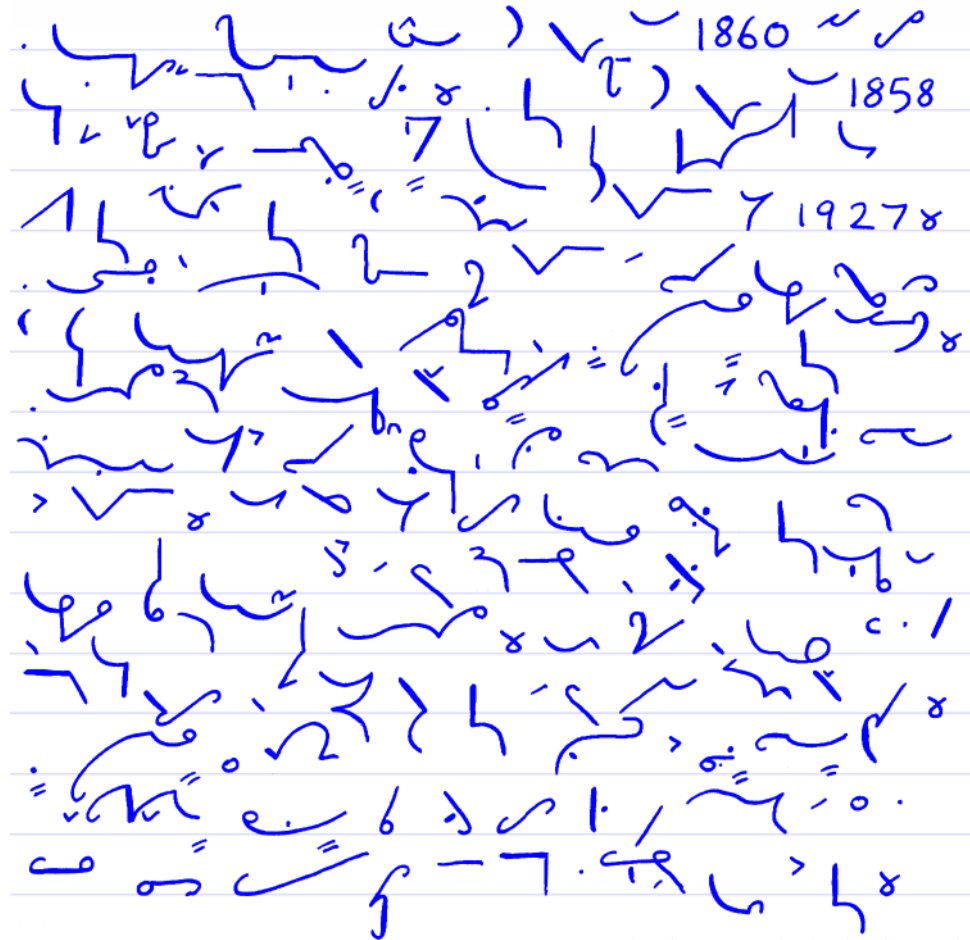
1995
 25-27 1784

47. The semi-circular bench around the outside of the viewing area is inscribed with the following poem, although part of it is now missing due to the disintegration of some of the wood, which was carved in 1995:

Here fair Eliza, Virgin Queen
 From business free, enjoy'd* the scene.
 Here oft in pensive mood she stood
 And kindly plan'd* for Britain's good:
 So record tells and this beside,

Sung ditties to the silver tide.
 Full worth such honours art thou still,
 Belov'd* of thousands, One Tree Hill.
 T.N. One Tree Hill, The London Chronicle
 May 25-27th, 1784

* "enjoy'd" "belov'd" "plan'd" The apostrophe was used in past centuries in poems to replace the letter "e" to show that the syllable was not to be pronounced separately, in order to aid smooth reading. For belovèd you would insert the vowel after the V



48. The Victorian drinking fountain was built in 1860 and would once have had a cup on a chain. The deer trough was built in 1858 on the site of the old Keeper's Cottage after it was demolished, for the red deer and fallow deer that roamed the park until 1927. The increase of motor traffic through the park and greater visitor numbers meant that they had eventually to be restricted to The Wilderness deer enclosure. The animals were introduced by Henry VIII, and the present-day remnant enjoy greater safety but less freedom in their own* corner of the park. In the past

only one fence separated the deer from visitors at this viewing point and people were expected to obey the notice not to feed or touch the animals. Now there are two fences with a large gap between, to ensure both deer and people are not harmed by each other. The Wilderness is also the location of the Secret Garden Wildlife Centre, which is open one day each month, and has a glass screen where children can get a close-up view of the deer. (2489 words)

* "in their own" Doubling to represent "their"

A series of horizontal lines provided for writing the shorthand equivalent of the text on page A.