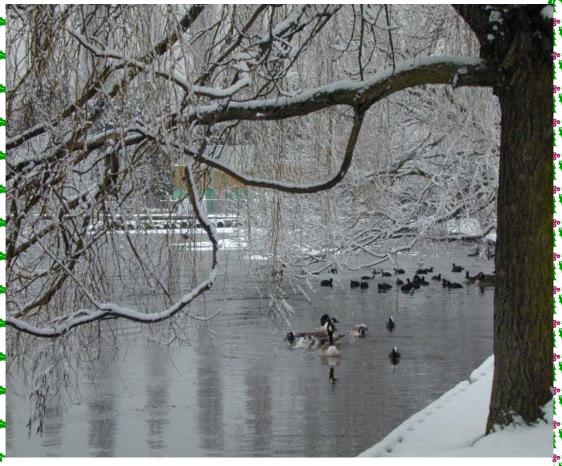


#### Wimbledon Park Residents' Association

### Christmas 2004



Wimbledon Park Lake in Winter



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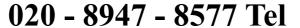
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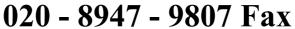
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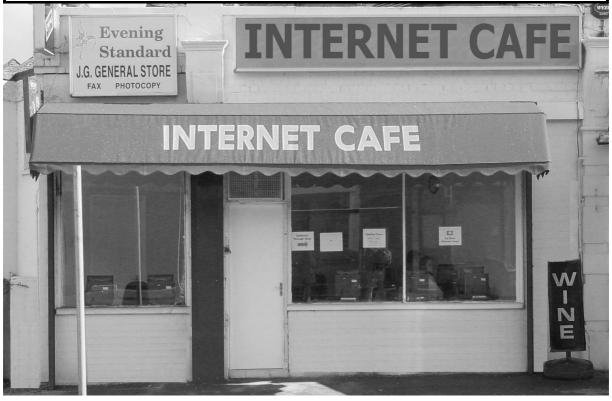














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#### From the Chairman.....

#### Wimbledon Park Hall

As mentioned in our last newsletter, the deadline for submitting tenders was the 29<sup>th</sup> October. Those of you who attended the AGM on the 19<sup>th</sup> October will have heard Andrew Judge, Leader of the Council and our guest speaker, say that there had been, at that date, 76 six expressions of interest in the property. Since then we have learned that there was considerable interest in the site and close to twenty bids were received.

We understand the process of sifting through the bids and arriving at a shortlist of potential developers, should have been completed by now. That is all we know about this at the moment. In the future, until the publication of the next newsletter (Easter), we will update the website with any further information we receive.

#### Plough Lane Development

Whilst, so far, our communication with the Council over Wimbledon Park Hall, has been very satisfactory, the same, regrettably, cannot be said for matters relating to the redevelopment of Plough Lane. Many of you will know about the proposed residential development at Plough Lane. Earlier this year two meetings were held locally to discuss the plans for the proposed development of the site at Plough Lane. Both Meetings were initiated by Roger Casale, our MP, and involved senior representatives from the developers, David Wilson Homes, the Wimbledon Civic Forum and local residents and residents associations. The impact of the development, on the immediate area surrounding Plough Lane, will be quite profound but, in the long term we believe, very beneficial. The impact on Wimbledon Park itself will be much less, but still considerable.

Following the meetings I wrote, on behalf of the association, to Steve Clark, Head of Planning and Protection and others, setting out our views based on the consensus views reached in the meetings. You will find a copy of the letter on pages 8 & 9. The planning application, which was originally lodged in October 2003, was, according to Steve Clark, Head of planning, likely to go to the planning committee sometime late this year, subject to concluding discussions with developers. It was our intention to attend that meeting and to reinforce the points set out in our letter.

In October I received a note from our MP Roger Casale enclosing a copy of a letter from a senior council officer confirming that once the date had been set for the meeting, Residents would be notified in writing and invited to attend.

(Where parties have written in with objections to applications this is usually automatic in any event) As we go to press I can tell you, unknown to any of us

in the association, the meeting did take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> November and the planning application was conditionally approved. Regrettably the Council did not notify me or the association (or anyone else locally that I am aware of) about the date of the meeting and therefore we were denied the opportunity to attend the meeting and represent our views.

This represents a serious breakdown in communication between ourselves and the Council. We have striven over the years to establish a constructive dialogue with all levels of the Council in order to create a platform for ensuring that, when there are serious local issues to be raised, there is an established line of communication to the appropriate people. It is through adopting this approach that I believe we can best represent the interests of local residents. However this does not mean that we will not be robust in our dealings with them if the need arises. I have raised this matter with Steve Clark and await his response.

#### **AGM**

There was a good turnout (at the AGM). Thank you to those who came and participated to make it a useful and enjoyable evening. We heard from Andrew Judge that yet again the Council are having to find savings, this time of around £12m, on the budget. Andrew stated the Council's intention of keeping the rise in Council Tax to a minimum. The main financial problem facing our Council is the large debt that it has to service. At the end of the year 2002/2003 Merton had an outstanding debt of £226 m for which provision of £120 mn has been made. This means there is a substantial debt servicing cost incurred every year. Andrew indicated that this year the cost was in the region of £6.5m.

He also emphasised that priority spending would continue to be on those areas that had been signalled by the results of the Council's survey, such as rubbish collection, graffiti, maintenance of open spaces and community safety.

Andrew also answered a number of questions relating to the Hall planning brief and tender process. He emphasised that the final selection of developer would be recommended by senior officers in the planning department and then sent to the Cabinet for approval.

That's it for 2004!

Best wishes for a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Iain Simpson

### What has the Wimbledon Park Residents' Association ever done for us?

Perhaps not as much as The Roman Empire according to John Cleese in the "Life of Brian", but still quite a lot.

For example, do you...

- Want an organised and recognised group to speak up for our area to the London Borough of Merton and to our MP Roger Casale?
- Want graffiti cleaned up and street rubbish removed?
- Like the idea of Front Garden awards to encourage an attractive street-scene?
- Believe Wimbledon Park should have its own brand new Community Hall to replace the derelict one?
- Want to see the crime statistics (thankfully very low) or talk to our beat policeman?
- Want the Plough Lane development to be monitored from our perspective?

Then Wimbledon Park Residents' Association provides all this and more.

The Association tries to maintain and nurture the identity of Wimbledon Park as a cohesive **community**. We get involved with:

Planning Applications<br/>Rubbish Removal<br/>Safety issuesTraffic & Parking<br/>Neighbourhood Watch<br/>ConservationGraffiti removal<br/>Police & Crime Pevention<br/>Parks and open spacesUrban regenerationLocal Amenities

We keep you informed with a free 40+-page magazine three times a year

We maintain our website, www.wimbledonpark.com which provides a window on our activities and a useful e-mail contact point.

We liaise and work together, on matters of mutual interest, with other local Residents' associations and groups, such as the Wimbledon Civic Forum, the Wimbledon Society and the Wimbledon Park Heritage Group.

On the centre pages of this magazine you will see how you can join Wimbledon Park Residents' Association.

Subscriptions are what keep us going and I hope you will sign up.

Many thanks. John Slater, Membership Secretary

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Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

From all at Gardners Butchers









#### Plough Lane redevelopment

Letter written to Steve Clark, Head of Plannning and Protection (LBM). Copies to: Roger Casale MP; Marcus Beale - Wimbledon Civic Forum; John Terry - David Wilson Homes; Members of the Planning Committee

#### Dear Mr Clark

I am taking the opportunity to write on behalf of the Wimbledon Park Residents' Association (WPRA) to convey our comments on the proposed plans. In the first instance we would like to express our support, in principle, for the proposed development. The style of residential development proposed seems, to most residents, an appropriate use of the land. This area has been a dreadful blight on the land-scape since the departure of the football club, now many years ago, and has had a very detrimental effect on the whole area. Regardless of concerns we have about certain aspects of the development, there is no question that when completed we all feel that there should be considerable long-term benefits to the surrounding area.

We do have concerns about certain aspects of the proposal and wish to make those known before the application goes before the planning committee, which we understand will be in the next few months.

#### **Density and Height**

We believe that 7 storeys (8 in the centre) is much too high and is significantly out of keeping with the surrounding area. In addition the number (570) of units is far too dense. From the meeting we have had it is clear that there is unanimity among local residents about this and that both height and density should be scaled down to a more modest level. The impact of the front of the building in particular will be dramatic on those living in the immediate area.

#### Transport

We are concerned that the impact of this redevelopment (est. 5%) on transport and traffic in the area is being significantly understated despite the various proposals put forward in the plans for amelioration. There is no satisfactory existing project with which to satisfactorily compare the effects of the proposals for non-car transport. As a result we consider that:

- Even greater emphasis should be put on improving the local bus services
- Cycle lanes should be introduced on the main road to further encourage the use of bicycles.
- More detail is needed about the costs of using the car club, particularly in the long term. In our view, the idea is a good one but many more cars (current proposal 15) will have to be introduced to satisfy the number of residents that are proposed at the moment.
- From the explanation given by the transport consultant no-one seems convinced that that the proposed, dedicated traffic signal for buses at the cross-roads will achieve anything but slow up the pace of traffic, which is already

- very congested at peak times.
- To accommodate the extra traffic and additional buses the cross roads at Plough Lane will require greater widening and better planning than already proposed.
- During the period of building (some four years according to the developers) we anticipate considerable traffic congestion in the immediate area and consequent development of rat runs into residential roads to avoid the area.

#### **Pollution**

There is great concern about how close the building will be to the power lines. Whilst we have been assured that the current proposals are within the recommendations laid down by the NRPB there is considerable evidence that the view taken by the board is considerably at variance with standards in other European countries and the USA. We believe and Environmental Impact assessment should be performed.

#### Regeneration/Education

It seems that the proposed Sec 106 contribution for improving and enhancing education provision in the area is particularly lightweight, in view of the anticipated profile of purchasers, particularly the 30% or more affordable housing provision.

We believe in order for the development to acquire a real self-contained identity more development in needed in the areas of shopping/Bar/restaurant and youth provision. There is a suggestion that a GP surgery and Pharmacy and other related services might be provided. We would certainly support this proposal.

#### Landscape

If treated the right way, with generous and thoughtful provision of landscaping with trees, flower beds/shrubs and particularly a walkway along the River side, we believe this area has the potential to be a powerful legacy for future generations and could become a area of outstanding natural interest drawing people from all over Wimbledon.

We would like to see local involvement from groups such as Groundwork Merton and other groups who already have a keen interest in and support the regeneration of the Wandle. In this way there may be possibilities for additional funding from external sources.

We would appreciate your taking these views and observations into account when considering the planning application.

Yours sincerely

Iain C Simpson

#### Wimbledon Park Residents' Association

#### Constitution

- 1. <u>PURPOSE.</u> The purpose of the Association shall be the preservation, improvement, protection and advancement of the community and amenities of Wimbledon Park Ward, part of the London Borough of Merton.
- 2. <u>MEMBERSHIP</u>. Membership of the Association shall be available to anyone aged eighteen years or over who is a resident of Wimbledon Park Ward, part of the London Borough of Merton.
- 3. <u>SUBSCRIPTIONS.</u> The annual subscription to be paid by members shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting and shall relate to the period from 1<sup>st</sup> September to the following 31<sup>st</sup> August.
- 4. <u>THE COMMITTEE.</u> The management of the Association shall be vested in a Committee consisting of not less than five members appointed by the members of the Association attending the Annual General Meeting. The Committee may appoint a member to fill any vacancy caused by the subsequent resignation of any person appointed by the Annual General Meeting. The Committee shall meet together for the despatch of business and regulate their meetings as they think fit. Questions arising at any Committee meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes of those present. All members of the Committee shall retire at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting following the Annual General Meeting at which they were appointed but they shall be eligible to offer themselves for re-appointment at such meeting.
- 5. OFFICERS Those present at the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING shall appoint members to serve as (i) Chairman, (ii) Secretary, (iii) Treasurer and (iv) such other posts as may be decided by the membership. THE CHAIRMAN or his / her deputy shall preside at all meetings of the Association and shall have a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes. THE SECRETARY or his / her deputy shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Association and sign all notices convening meetings. THE TREASURER or his / her deputy shall keep accounts of the funds of the Association and be responsible for the safe-keeping of all assets of the Association.
- 6. <u>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS</u> shall be held annually at a time and place determined by the Committee who shall give seven days notice of such meeting. The business to be transacted shall include (a) The Chairman's annual report, (b) The treasurer's report (cc) election of officers (d) questions, (e) any other business.
  - 7. OTHER MEETINGS The Committee may call a meeting of members

by giving at least seven days notice. Twenty Five or more members of the Association may request in writing to the Secretary re quire a Special Meeting to be held within twenty-one days of such request being lodged with the Secretary. Any request for a Special Meeting shall specify the business to be transacted at the Meeting and no other business shall be allowed.

- 8. <u>ALTERATION OF RULES</u> The Rules of the Association may be altered and new rules made by resolution passed by Members of the Association present at an Annual General Meeting.
- 9. <u>DISSOLUTION</u> If a majority of the members present at a meeting of the Association decide that the Association shall be dissolved, then they may resolve that the Association shall cease its activities and discharge its liabilities so far as there are any assets available for this purpose. If there remains any property or funds in the Association's hands, the same shall be transferred to such charitable organisation/s as the members shall nominate on their resolution to wind up the affairs of the Association.

(amended per AGM 14.10.03)

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#### Report from ROGER CASALE MP

Our local Member of Parliament for Wimbledon

It is always a great pleasure to visit Wimbledon Park and I have done so recently on many occasions and for many different reasons from violin lessons in the hall of Christ the King (for my daughter not me!) to taking part in "MPs back to school day" at Wimbledon Park school to chairing meetings with representatives from residents associations, the Council, Wimbledon Civic Forum and the developers on the future of the Plough Lane site in July. I was also pleased to have the opportunity to meet many local residents during one of my "doorstep surgeries" in Wimbledon Park in November.

I know from my visits both how attractive Wimbledon Park is as a residential area and how much local residents care about the neighbourhood. Most people I have spoken to believe as I do that we can only achieve the best for Wimbledon Park in the future by taking a constructive approach with the local authorities. At the same time, there are times when that approach breaks down and a more robust stance is needed. There are also many local issues where action is needed now.

These issues include the problems associated with policing Wimbledon Park, the level of council tax and quality of council services, graffiti and anti-social behaviour, and improving the District line service as well as planning issues such as the location of telecoms masts and the re-development of Wimbledon Park Hall.

On all of these issues and others I am committed to working with residents and with the WPRA to improve things. I know that Pat de Jesus and her graffiti-busting team from Merton Council have been in action in Wimbledon Park and I have asked for them to come back again. I have raised the concerns about security in the park with the local police. Police numbers in London are now at record high levels and many more community support officers (CSOs) are on the way including what will be a team of six dedicated officers (One local beat

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Please contact Jenny Tabori L.T.C.L. G.T.C.L. Dip. Music Therapy on 020-8946-6043 for further information. officer, two sergeants, three CSOS) for each ward. I will be working to make sure this is prioritised for Wimbledon Park.

On the District line issues, I am in regular contact with Bob Thorogood, Manager of the District Line. When we met to prioritise the new investment that has been announced for the District line up-grade he told me:

"this was the first time in 44 years working for the London Underground that he had ever seen committed long-term funding".

On telecoms masts I was pleased to have worked successfully with local residents to prevent the installation of a mast on top of the Beaumont House in Arthur Road. I am in touch with the Council and will be pleased to make representations in respect of the mast being proposed by Vodaphone on the junction of Lake Road, Leopold road and Vineyard Hill Road. On Wimbledon Park Hall I have asked the Council to take full account of the need for excellence in design in selecting the winning bid. I recently presented a bill to parliament, which would give the Secretary of State the right to insist on a design competition in relation to the re-development and ensure that the local community are give the opportunity to participate fully in the design process. I have urged the council to have regard to the principles incorporated in my bill in relation to the Wimbledon Park Hall site.

Against a back-drop of economic stability, rising prosperity, and increased investment in the public services for which I believe the Government does deserve credit, local issues, in my view should be dealt with in a non party-political way. Many of the issues can be resolved by good communication and by encouraging organisations and individuals to do their best rather than engaging at too early a stage in the blame game. I do help many constituents and local organisations take complaints to the public authorities and am doing so now in relation to the way the Council failed to keep Wimbledon Park Residents' Association apprised of the latest developments on the Plough Lane site. In the end, however, it is the quality of our relationship and of our communication with the statutory bodies that can really deliver results and it is by helping to strengthen those relationships that an MP can do most to help.

It is the voice of local residents and of the Wimbledon Park Residents' Association that needs to be heard if we are to improve our environment and make sure that Wimbledon Park continues to flourish and to fulfil its potential as an urban village.

For my part, I will always do my best to represent you.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Roger Casale MP

### HIGHLIGHTS OF WIMBLEDON 2004



Here's a reminder of some of the highlights which made it a Wimbledon year to savour.

### Wimbledon Junior Tennis Initiative (WJTI) youngsters show Williams sisters the way.

Although the weather put paid to the WJTI juniors' annual Championships chance to entertain the crowds out on Court 14, the sun fortunately shone brightly on what was surely the highlight of their year, the chance to mix it with the Williams sisters at the international premiere of their new book How to Play Tennis. There's no doubt that both Serena and Venus were impressed by the high standard of skill displayed by the WJTI squad, all the more so when it was explained that until joining the Initiative a couple of years ago, most of the kids had never even picked up a racket.

#### Sir Roger Bannister launches Olympic Torch Relay

Our old friend the weather was equally diabolical on the middle Saturday of The Championships when the Club and the surrounding area played host to an historic event, the launch of the London leg of the Olympic torch relay for the 2004 Athens Olympics from Centre Court.

Amidst cheers and applause from a sizeable crowd the legendary Sir Roger Bannister stated the 48km relay by taking the first flame through the Clubhouse to the steps of the Clubhouse entrance. Here, before the world's media, he handed over to Tim Henman, who ran around the grounds along a route lined with soggy but enthusiastic spectators and Championships staff. At Gate 1 on Church Road, it was the turn of Virginia Wade to continue the tennis theme for the onward trip to Southfields and wider London beyond.

### Business as usual for King Roger as Princess Sharapova becomes the new darling of Centre Court.

The 118<sup>th</sup> Championships will be remembered for the wonderful singles' finals after the rain delays of the previous 13 days had tested the nerves of the players and the patience of everyone else.

The Men's Singles Final saw the two top-ranked players in the world fighting for the title. Challenger Andy Roddick 'threw the kitchen sink' at defending champion Roger Federer and as he added ruefully afterwards 'received a bathtub back'!



In a compelling contest Roddick made Federer fight all the way before the Swiss top seed finally triumphed in the fourth set.

Twenty-four hours earlier even Roger Federer was in danger of being eclipsed in the international publicity stakes as the odds-on favourite Serena Williams was sensationally dethroned by a 17-year-old Russian with film star looks and a beaming smile. Maria Sharapova became an instant hit as she recovered from a 2-4 deficit in the second set by launching a fearsome display of uninhibited strokes to capture hearts and the Ladies' Championship, so ending the four-year run of the Williams sisters.

Finally, hopefully everyone will have had the chance to enjoy the film 'Wimbledon' and indeed perhaps your own star performance if you were one of the lucky extras whose efforts did not end up on the cutting room floor!

Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2005.

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#### The Advent wreath

Advent is the period leading up to Christmas and includes the last four Sundays before Christmas starting with the Sunday nearest to the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle (this year the 28<sup>th</sup> November).

The actual origins of the Advent wreath are uncertain but there is evidence of pre-Christian Germanic peoples using wreathes with lit candles during the cold and dark December days as a sign of hope in the future warm and extended-sunlit days of Spring. Christians kept these popular traditions alive, and by the Middle Ages Advent wreaths were part of the spiritual preparation for Christmas and could be found throughout the Christian world. By 1600, more formal practices surrounding the Advent wreath had been adopted.

Traditionally, the wreath includes four candles representing the four weeks of Advent and Christ, "the Light that came into the world" (John 3:19-21) in a circle of evergreens signifying continuous life. The evergreens have a traditional meaning: The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering; pine, holly, and yew, immortality; and cedar, strength and healing. Holly also has a special Christian symbolism: The prickly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns.

The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolises eternity. Any pine cones, nuts, or seedpods used to decorate the wreath also symbolise life and resurrection.

One tradition is that each week represents one thousand years, the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the birth of Jesus. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolises the expectation and hope surrounding Christ's coming into the world. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles symbolise penance, sacrifice and goods works. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing when preparations are more that half over and Christmas is close. (Continued on Page 19)

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Another tradition is to replace the purple and rose candles with four white candles at Christmas, which will be lit daily throughout the Christmas season.

A short prayer may accompany the lighting.

The Advent Wreath is now an accepted tradition; enduring, clear, simple to use and to pass on to future generations.

To make an Advent wreath you will need:

- 1 A shallow bowl or dish,
- 2 Oasis cut into a circle (available from most florists) or a circle of oasis available from certain florists (Lansdale in Alexandra Road) or Covent Garden flower market. The oasis should be cut into the shape of a doughnut so water can be added to the centre to keep it moist.
- 3 three purple candles
- 4 one pink candle
- 5 four white candles if they are to be used at Christmas
- 6 evergreens, pine, cedar, laurel, holly, ivy etc
- 7 pine cones, nuts, seeds etc to decorate and florist's wire to attach

Begin by soaking the oasis in warm water until it is completely saturated. Fit it into the bowl, packing it in tightly so it will not move

Carve four holes in the oasis for the candles and put the candles in the holes. Stick greenery into the oasis to completely cover it (It's nice to have some trailing over the edges of the bowl) and closely packed around the candles to hide all the foam. Use florist's wire to attach pine cones.

Keep the foam well watered, and try not to let the candles burn down so low that they scorch the greenery, and the wreath will last from the first Sunday of Advent until Epiphany.

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- Single room, no meals, share kitchen and bathroom with household (£90 per week)

If you can help please contact: Alasdair Ross 020 8947 1921 alasdair@wimbledon-school.ac.uk



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#### **Christmas Church Services**

#### Christ the King, Catholic Church, The Crescent.

Friday, 24th December Christmas Eve

9.30 am Mass 10.00 am Confessions

7.00 pm Vigil Mass of Christmas

11.15pm Carols 12.00 midnight MIDNIGHT MASS

Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day

8.30am Mass 10.30am Family Mass 12.00 Noon Polish Mass

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NO EVENING MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> December

8.30 am Mass 10.30 am Family Mass

12.00 noon Polish Mass 5.30 pm Evening Mass



- Family Carols, 19th December 2004,
   10.30am. A service with familiar carols and the Christmas story, suitable for all the family.
- Readings and Carols 19th December 2004, 6pm. A traditional carol service, with favourite songs and readings from the Bible.
- Crib Service, 24th December 2004, 4pm. Christmas Eve (at 4pm) A popular service with young children, including

the

- opportunity to get dressed up and reenact the Christmas story!
- Midnight Communion, 24th December 2004, 11.15pm.
   A traditional midnight service.
- Christmas Morning, 25th December 2004, 10.30am. A short 'All-Age' service for all the family, followed afterwards by Holy Communion for those who want to stay on.

We would be delighted to have you join us for our Christmas celebrations this year! Look out for our special Christmas card through your letter box, and Jubilee Carols around the parish, leading up to Christmas...

#### Christmas isn't Just for Christmas

Further details from Revd Simon Vibert at the Church Office, 8241 7220 or online at www.wimbledonchurch.co.uk

#### **Southfields Methodist Church**

December 18th Saturday 10:00 to 12 noon Coffee morning and Carol singing for NCH caring for children who need it most Dec 19th Sun 11:00 am Carol Service Pastor Reynolds Dec 25th Saturday 11:00 Christmas Day Service Dec 26th Sunday 11:00 Revd Elisha Moloi Holy Communion

### Wimbledon Park Residents Association has been working on behalf of residents for many years.

The Association has in turn been well supported by subscriptions from residents. The Association has been without a Membership Secretary for nearly two years however and many subscriptions have lapsed and are now due for renewal.

In order to carry on working effectively for you, we ask for your support.

Please take a couple of minutes to become a member – in return you will get hours of work by dedicated local people who know and care about your area.

There are three subscription rates for a household (all residents in the household become members):

☐ £9 for a 3-year membership	£20 for a 10-year membership
☐ £25 for a lifetime membership	

You can pay in <u>instalments</u> with a Standing Order or in one lump sum by cheque.

To take out a Standing Order – complete the form following and send it to:

Mr J. Slater, 19 Crescent Gardens, Wimbledon Park. SW19 8AJ. I will record your membership, send you a receipt and post your form to your bank.

Or leave the completed form in a sealed envelope at any of the shops below, whose owners have all agreed to act as collection points. I will collect and process the forms.

Or you can send the form directly to your bank if you prefer.

If you would like to pay in <u>one payment</u>, then please make out a cheque to WPRA for the appropriate amount (£9, £20 or £25) and send it to:

Mr J. Slater, 19 Crescent Gardens, Wimbledon Park. SW19 8AJ

or leave your cheque in a sealed envelope at one of the shops below. Please write your address on the back of the cheque.

If you are not sure whether you are still a paid up member I will be able to tell you from our records.

Thank You. John Slater WPRA Membership Secretary E-mail: johnlslater@hotmail.com

Shops acting as collection points – hand in your form or cheque to any of these. WPRA is very grateful for their assistance.

**D Parry Pharmacy** – 124 Arthur Road, near Wimbledon Park tube station **Thomas James Chemist** – 385 Durnsford Road **The Curtain Agency** – corner of Braemar Av. and Revelstoke Rd.

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Comr No 1	nce and Leicester Bank nercial Banking South (BBAM), Bridal Road ΓLE, Merseyside GIR 0AA
Reference:(Your address to a m	naximum of 15 characters, e.g. '19CresGdns')
* The amount of £3 obership)	on 1 <sup>st</sup> May each year starting 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2005 (3-year mem-
* The amount of £5 of (for 10-year member	on 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2005 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2006, 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2007, 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2008 ship)
* The amount of £6.2 2008	25 on 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2005, 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2006, 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2007, 1 <sup>st</sup> May
(for Life Membershi)	o)

<sup>\*</sup> please <u>circle</u> the option you want. 3-year membership is the default.

#### Lights to Remember



The Marie Curie Cancer Care 'Lights to Remember' Appeal is taking place over the Christmas period. On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November a large tree was erected, in pride of place in the Piazza in Wimbledon Town Centre next to Safeway. Local people are being asked to sponsor a light on the tree in memory of a loved one and are invited to a 'Service of Remembrance'. The service will take place on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December and will involve a number of readings, and attendees will be given mulled wine and mince pies. We are also very lucky to have Annette Crosby (of One Foot in the Grave fame) who will switch on the lights and give a speech.

All money raised from this appeal will go to Marie Curie Cancer Care to help pay for our nurses to continue their amazing work caring for people who are terminally ill with cancer and supporting their families both emotionally and practically. Research has shown that 75% of terminally ill people would prefer to stay in their own home and our Marie Curie nurses are helping them to achieve this wish. The nurses go in to the home at the most difficult time and give the patient and family invaluable support and care. This service is free of charge but priceless to those who need it. If you would like to sponsor a light on the 'tree of remembrance' or would like some further information then please con-Jane 020 7599 7773 or email London. on fundraising@mariecurie.org.uk or visit the website mariecurie.org.uk



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**Christmas Greetings from Jackie & Nick** 



### SUPPORT YOUR CIVIC SOCIETY

#### VISIT THE MUSUEM IN WIMBLEDON VILLAGE

Find out much more about your area by visiting our superbly restored museum. We are normally open throughout the year on Saturdays and Sundays (2.30pm to 5.00pm). It's located above the Village Club on the corner of Lingfield Road and the Ridgway.

Admission is free and you will find a selection of local publications as well as lots of information about the history of the Wimbledon area and the Society's work.

Our latest computer facilities give fast and easy access to hundreds of images from our unique collection of photographs, postcards, prints, drawings, and watercolours.

#### WHAT'S ON IN WIMBLEDON

Our newsletter will tell you what's really happening in Wimbledon. It will keep you abreast of local affairs and provides full details of the latest news, views, meetings, and a useful contacts list and diary.

#### JOIN THE SOCIETY

Widen your circle of friends and help ensure everyone continues to enjoy the history and heritage of Wimbledon by making our voice heard in the local community.

Full details of our activities, special events, excursions and membership application forms are available from the Secretary on 020 8944 0613. Membership is just £8.00 (£12.00 family).

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www.wimbledonsociety.org.uk

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#### Articles for publication and advertising in the newsletter

Residents are welcome to submit articles, letters or even poems for publication in this newsletter. All articles may be be subject to editing and are published at the discretion of the editor. Please e-mail your article in any text format. As we frequently receive articles titled "Article for WPRA" please detail the subject of your article in the name. i.e "Golf on the common article for WPRA" This does make things much easier. If you prefer to submit handwritten articles or letters, we also welcome those.

Our next newsletter will be due out just before Easter.

Our newsletter is delivered to every household in the area covered by the association regardless of membership.

Advertising covers (most of the time) the cost of the printing the 2,300 copies.

Please contact Noel Ranken on 020 8946 2283 to discuss advertising rates and copy dates.





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#### Planning Alert – You Need to Know This.

By James Manktelow

As many of you will know, the government is trying to increase the number of homes being built in London and the South East. There are good reasons for this, however the way this policy is being implemented is causing major problems for Wimbledon Park residents. It is important that residents work together to prevent undesirable and inappropriate development.

You can see the scale of the problem for yourself by looking at the London Plan (available online at http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/strategies/sds/london\_plan/lon\_plan\_5.pdf). The last eight pages of this document (53 to 60) show what is proposed for South London, including our area of Wimbledon. Wimbledon Park is part of the area called the Wandle Valley in the Plan, one of the two areas of South London targeted for large-scale "regeneration".

The Plan states that South London should accommodate 42,000 new homes by 2016.

According to the Plan, many of these homes should be developed on the small industrial sites of the Wandle Valley. As we know, many of these sites are along Durnsford Road. More than this, there is a general desire to increase "intensification" throughout the area.

In Merton, implementation of the Plan is governed by a weighty document called the Unitary Development Plan (UDP, available from Merton Council Plans and Projects Department, 020 8545 3041). The UDP defines the rules which apply to the design of new developments, and seems to be the only real basis on which planning decisions can be challenged. It seems that as long as design and construction comply with the UDP, a new building can be built, irrespective of whether it is attractive or sympathetic to the area.

In our ongoing fight to moderate the over-development of our community, residents have attended a number of planning meetings. Personally, I was shocked by the extent to which the council planning committee was influenced in its decision-making by fear of the possible cost of fighting any appeal that developers might make. I was also shocked by the enthusiasm for development shown by Merton

planning officers, who take evident pride in their ability to push applications through as quickly as possible.

I was also surprised by the extent to which council planning officers, rather than elected representatives, seemed to drive planning decision-making. To quote a speaker from the audience at the recent WPRA AGM,

"Council officers seem to live on Cloud Nine with respect to the policies they promote."

An example is "car free" status, which planning officers evidently see as a useful wheeze for putting up large-scale developments without providing any additional parking. It is we, not they, who pay the price for this as parking becomes even more of a nightmare.

Furthermore, in case after case at the planning meetings we attended, I saw angry residents depart, deeply upset that they had only found out that planning permission was being sought at the last minute, leaving no time being available to mount a defence. This corresponds with the experience of many residents of Wimbledon Park, who have not been told about developments affecting them, or who have been notified too late for any reasonable action to be taken. Residents' complaints at planning meetings seem to be met with total bureaucratic indifference.

#### Four points in summary:

- \* Much more development could come our way.
- \* The planning system in Merton appears structurally to be stacked against residents' interests.
- \* Only by working together, with full engagement of all residents, can we moderate the forthcoming changes to our community.
- \* If you receive notification of planning permission that you oppose, involve your neighbours and the Residents' Association immediately. You will need to fight particularly hard to overcome what seems to be pro-developer bias built into the planning system.

#### Be Alert!

#### **JEWELLERY FOR CHRISTMAS**

Are you going to buy some jewellery as a Christmas present?

Here are some useful points to bear in mind.

There are three precious metals used in jewellery:- gold, platinum and silver. All three are required by law to be Hallmarked to guarantee their purity (although there are exceptions for very small or delicate items). Until very recently Hallmarks had to include a Date Letter showing the year when the object was marked. However, the Date Letter has now unfortunately become optional. If you are buying a present you may wish to make sure that the Date Letter is included as a permanent record of the year of the gift.

Pure gold is described as 24 carat, and is extremely soft. The highest purity of gold that is normally hallmarked is 22ct. This has 1/12 alloy added to the gold to make it hard enough for jewellery. Although now rare in the UK, 22ct gold was traditional for wedding rings. Other purities of gold that are commonly Hallmarked in the UK are 18ct ( .750 or 3/4 gold) and 9ct ( .375 or3/8 gold). In some countries nothing less than 50% may be described as gold. 18ct gold is quite hard enough for jewellery, and the only reason for 9ct is cost. 18ct and 9ct golds can be alloyed to produce different colours. Although white gold is quite common, it is usually rhodium plated and the finish can deteriorate with wear. The truly white metal is platinum, this is only Hallmarked as .950 so is extremely pure. It is extremely strong and enable very delicate settings to be practicable. Platinum is, however, the most expensive metal and is very expensive to work.

Rings: All rings should be finished so that there are no rough or raised parts to catch on clothing. If it has stones that are set with claws, it is worth running it gently over some material. It it snags then eventually a claw will be raised and the stone may be lost. Rub-over settings (a continuous thin edge of metal pushed over the edge of the stone) gives both a smoother look and is far less prone to catching, but does make the ring more difficult to repair. Some stones are fragile and thus not really suitable for rings, particularly in raised settings or if the ring is going to be frequently worn. Using bunches of keys is particularly dangerous to rings. Opals, for instance, are extremely prone to cracking if knocked and are, therefore, best suited to pendants or earrings, where they are far less vulnerable Many stones, such as opals, emeralds and turquoises can damaged by immersion in washing

up water, so do consider how the ring will be worn. Diamonds are graded by the four Cs. Carat (the measure of weight, - 1ct is 0.2 grams), cut, colour (degree of whiteness) and clarity( amount of inclusions). Clarity grading is done at a magnification of x10. If a diamond is being worn in jewellery, then the colour is normally much more important than the clarity provided that the stone is Eye Clean (ie. inclusions are not readily apparent to the unaided eye when the stone is in the jewellery). The better the colour the better the jewellery will generally look. Diamonds should always be carefully examined before purchase. Of two stones with virtually identical grading certificates, one may be a much livelier, and thus more attractive, stone that the other. This cannot be determined if stones are bought blind (eg. on the internet) purely on the basis of their grades. It should also be mentioned that a really good colour diamond should be set in white metal, as yellow metal next to the stone will make the diamond appear slightly yellow. It is, of course, extremely important that the rings fits or can be sized. Most ring sizes can be adjusted by a small amount. However, if many rings are enlarged or reduced by too much, then the settings can be distorted and sometimes stones may fall out.

Pendants, necklaces and earrings: Most of the above applies to jewellery other than rings. Many earrings are lost or damaged when raised claws catch when jumpers are taken off, and a good quality chain should be smooth when run through the fingers.

Almost all coloured stones are now treated in some way to enhance their attractiveness, and this should be disclosed by the jeweller. A good professional jeweller should be able and, indeed happy, to discuss all the above matters with his customers. He should also advise on the care and cleaning of jewellery. The trade body that most good jewellers belong to is the National Association of Goldsmiths, and their Membership is normally prominently displayed. If you are buying stones, then it is worth asking if there is a anyone with the Gemmological Diploma (FGA) and/or the Diamond Diploma (DGA) of the Gemmological Association and Gem Testing Laboratory of Great Britain. No qualifications are legally required in the UK to sell jewellery, so membership of both organisations should give some confidence that you are dealing with professionals with considerable product knowledge.

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### November 2004 Better Healthcare Closer to Home - Consultation

The Better Healthcare Closer to Home programme is consulting residents about plans to deliver better healthcare in the boroughs of Merton, Sutton and Mid-Surrey. The proposal is about providing more healthcare locally, in community settings such as GP surgeries, in patients' homes and in the form of a network of local care hospitals supported by a critical care hospital for the sickest of patients.

Local care hospitals would provide the majority of services including mental health, diagnostics (such as X-ray and ultrasound), minor injury clinics, day surgery and outpatient clinics. They would be supported by a critical care hospital for maternity, emergency care, intensive care, complex operations and specialist care for sick children.

The consultation started on September 1<sup>st</sup> and finishes at the end of November. The summary consultation document has been distributed to homes throughout the area and is available from a wide range of public places and NHS facilities. If for any reason you have not received a copy or wish to obtain further copies please call 020 8296 4729. There are a number of events that have already taken place during the three month consultation including Citizens' Panels to debate the issues surrounding these proposals, 'Question Time' events hosted by an independent chair, public drop-in events and town centre roadshows.

#### On the Right Track - St Lukes Carol Singing 2004

Last year's collection for Barnados was another record (£1487.78) and we want to thank everyone who helped to make it a very special diamond jubilee of our support for that charity. We also told readers that after 60 years we felt it was time to look for a new charity to support.

We have decided that the true spirit of Christmas would best be served by helping another children's charity and we are very happy to confirm that this year we will be collecting for the **Railway Children**. This British charity was formed by a group of people touched and appalled by the fate of the thousands of young children with no home but the floor of one of India's vast railway stations. Over the years the charity has widened its concern and aid to all children, wherever they are in the world, which are homeless and abandoned.

The scale of this human tragedy is staggering. The United Nations estimate that there are, on average, 150 million street children in the world at any one time. This is more than twice the population of the UK, and it is not about what is happening somewhere else, far far away. Each year 100,000 under 16s run away from home in this country and 14,000 run-aways come to serious harm in the period from one Christmas to another. **Railway Children** is working in this country, in India, Bangladesh, Russia, Mexico, Peru, Kenya and Romania, and they want that list to grow.

The vision of the Charity is to provide a route for vulnerable children, away from the streets, into a life that offers safety and opportunity, helping to secure the future for them and their communities. Few, if any, will argue with that vision, and especially at this season. It is surprising how much difference a relatively small amount of money can make to children's lives. For £50-00 a class of 30 of these youngsters, in India, can be provided with food, education and healthcare. So your generosity will make a real difference.

Although we will be bringing greetings from your parish church, St. Luke's, and letting you know details of our services during the festival season, (which we would love you to be a part of) every pence you give us will go directly to the Railway Children to help their work amongst some of the most vulnerable and unloved youngsters in the world.

This year's Carol Singing schedule Page 36 >



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The dates planned for St Lukes Carol Singing are:

Wednesday 15th December - Stroud, Stuart, Ashen and the top part of Melrose.

Friday 17th December - Durnsford Rd, Revelstoke and the rest of Melrose

Saturday 18th December - singing at the Farmer's Market at Wimbledon Park School

Monday 20th December - Wellington, Havana, Gordondale, Lucien, Haslemenre, etc.

Wednesday 22nd December - Braemar and the other avenues Friday 24th December - Ryfold, Farquhar, Strathmore, The Crescent, Crescent Gardens

Obviously weather and other unforeseen circumstances may alter this.

You are more than welcome to join us; we meet at 7.15pm at the church. Any offers of help and support would be greatly appreciated.

William Featherstone 26 Strathmore Road

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#### **Professional Career Counselling**

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How many people do you know who are actually happy in their work? Does your son, daughter, relative, friend or work colleague need some career advice?



How would **you** respond to the following:

- Are you in the right career? Did you make a positive choice or did you just fall in to it.
- Are you utilising your strengths to full advantage?
- Are you in the right job but think you are in the wrong organisation?
- More or Less responsibility. Are you at the right level?
- Are you stressed or bored?
- Do you have thoughts about being independent/self employed?
- Are you passionate about your work?

Professional career counselling can provide **confidence and direction**, clarifying or confirming career direction. It can provide explanations and self-awareness, valuable in explaining **why you are right for the job or course** during an interview.

I am a Wimbledon based **Chartered Psychologist**, and have over 16 years experience in advising individuals of all ages (15 yrs to retirement) and occupational or academic levels (over 5000 satisfied clients), and my fees are competitive (from £295 for under 25s, £495 for adults, and bespoke executive counseling up to £1000).

All services incorporate a full psychometric assessment of Ability, Motivation and Personality, and a personal, interactive, counselling consultation. Reports are bespoke, not computer generated narratives.

#### I am one of the lucky ones...I am passionate about my work.

I often change people's thinking about psychometric assessment, and I have been told that my input has changed and improved people's lives. Do you really care about and enjoy your work?

Should you wish to discuss your personal circumstances and how I might help, telephone Sherridan on 020 8944 1875 or e-mail sherridan@careermax.co.uk

#### **Your Local Health Care Services**

In Wimbledon Park Ward there are:

2 Pharmacies D. Parry Pharmacy Arthur Road
T. James Pharmacy Duringford Road

T. James Pharmacy Durnsford Road

1 GP surgery Vineyard Hill Road Surgery

3 Dental Surgeries N. Billingham & Associates Arthur Road

WHM Lu & Associates Revelstoke Road K.D. McLaren Leopold Road

The G.P. Surgery is able to offer an appointment to see a GP within 48 hours or a Healthcare Professional within 24 hours.

In the past, provision of Health Service to the Community was the responsibility of the Health Authority (Merton Sutton and Wandsworth Health Authority). Now this is split into two Primary Care Trusts (Wandsworth PCT and Sutton & Merton PCT).

The PCT is your first point of contact for information about any Healthcare.

Our local Primary Care Trust (PCT) is called Sutton & Merton PCT and is based at the Nelson Hospital. The PCT serves a population of 370,000 with a budget of £401.9m.

The PCT's statement of purpose is to deliver "High quality, accessible and affordable services to improve the health of the people of Sutton and Merton".

Visit the PCT website at: www.suttonandmerton-pct.nhs.uk

Within Sutton & Merton PCT population, Smoking caused a total of 570 deaths in 2001. Of those 110 were from Cancer, 200 from Respiratory disease and 150 from Circulatory disease. This translated to 18% of all deaths within this PCT in 2001. There were 2690 admissions to our hospitals due to smoking. This is a huge burden on the overstretched NHS Hospitals.

Stop-Smoking advice and treatment is available free to all from your GP or Pharmacy.

As we approach the holiday season it is worth reminding ourselves of the need to obtain appropriate vaccinations, and other medicines like anti-malarials, sunscreens, diarrhoea, allergies etc. Ask your Pharmacist or GP for suitable advice well before travelling.

#### Websites for information:

www.fco.gov.uk/travel British Foreign Office safety information www.open.gov.uk/doh/hat/hatcvr.htm health advice for travellers from the UK www.tripprep.com/country/country.html Travel Health online



### Christmas Farmers' Market Thursday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> 4pm – 7pm



At Wimbledon Park Primary School, Havanna Road, off Durnsford Road

Our last Saturday market before Christmas is on the 18th December. this special Thursday market will give you the chance to get the freshest vegetables in Wimbledon for your Christmas dinner and to pick up your ordered meats. All straight from the farm

Held at the Wimbledon Farmers' Market. Every Saturday at the above location We return after our Christmas break on the 8th January. HAPPY NEW YEAR

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Arthur Road Mrs Comfort 127 Ashen Grove Carole Houghton 77 Helen Atkin 73 Stuart Rd Stroud Rd Ken Ball 20 Stephen Saul 56 Braemar Ave Normanton Ave

Alverstone Av Alison Wickham 21

Wolseley Ave **Durnsford Ave** 

Melrose Ave Beth Mitchell 13,

Oonagh Moulton 21,

Ryfold Rd Judy Israel 14, Sue Knibbs 18

Farquhar Rd Jane Scoon 21

Strathmore Rd

The Crescent Douglas Dallimer 8, Ceri Sheeran 4 Bentley Close,

Veronica O'Sullivan 52

Crescent Gardens as above

Dawlish Avenue **Mount Road** 

#### Unrepresented streets in bold and italics

**Durnsford Road** Gordondale Rd Havana Rd

Wellington Rd Mary Whiting 26 Gill & George Farmer 24

Ravensbury Road Roger Gallier 32

Lucien Rd

Frederick & Margaret Scott 15

Stuart Holmes 34 **Brooklands** Ave

Haslemere Ave

Home Park Rd Iain Simpson 56,

> Tony Brown 50, Cécile Bridgens 52,

Ken Onwood 120

Dora Rd Pat & George Gomez 103 Kenilworth Ave Roy Wickens 32 Strathearn Rd Jay Mcinnes 18

Landgrove Rd Waldemar Rd

#### **WPRA Committee Christmas 2004**

WI IN COMM		_00.
Councillor Tariq Ahmad, ex	c/o Merton Civic Centre London Road Morden	SM4 5DX
Ken Ball - Graffiti Removal	20 Stroud Road	SW19 8DH
Cécile Bridgens - Vice Chairman	52 Home Park Road	<b>SW19 7HN</b>
Tony Brown - Parks & Opens Spaces	50 Home Park Road	SW19 7HN
Judith Centofanti - Association Secretary	23 Crescent Gardens	SW19 8AJ
Andrew Dalton - Treasurer	92 Dora Road	SW19 7HJ
Nigel Israel	14 Ryfold Road	SW19 8BZ
James Manktelow	25 Crescent Gardens	SW19 8AJ
Cllr Beth Mitchell, ex officio	13 Melrose Avenue	SW19 8BU
Paresh Modasia	124 Arthur Road	SW19 8AA
Cllr Oonagh Moulton, ex officio	21 Melrose Avenue	SW19 8BU
Michael Moore Horticultural Matters	344 Durnsford Road	SW19
David Salmon	27 The Crescent	SW19 8AW
Ceri Sheeran - Newsletter production	4 Bentley Close The Crescent	SW19 8AL
Iain Simpson - Chairman & Newsletter Editor	56 Home Park Road	SW19 7HN
John Slater - Membership Sec.	19 Crescent Gardens	SW19 8AJ

#### Gath'ring Winter Fu--el

If you are thinking about getting stocked up with some logs, before the Feast of Stephen, and are not sure where to go, take a trip up to the Windmill on Wimbledon Common where, beside the Rangers Cottage, there are plenty of logs for sale.

#### Prices are:

Fill your Car boot Saloon Car £10.00 Estate Car £20.00

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TREES PRUNED & FELLED PAVING & PATIOS BRICKWORK GARDEN WALLS



LAWNS & TURF
PLANTING
ALL TYPES OF FENCING
GARDENS TIDIED
CRAZY PAVING

The best time for pruning tree and shrubs is between November & March.

The best time for lawns & turfing is between October and April. For the full use of your garden next summer, don't leave it too late. Phone now for a quick estimate.

Work carried out quickly and efficiently, with references always available.

To speak to Mr Raynsford personally contact him between 5pm and 10pm every evening and at weekends on 020-8947-1062.



# D Parry Pharmacy



Opening Hours Mon to Fri 8:30am to 7:00 pm

124 Arthur Road Wimbledon Park SW19 8AA Tel 020-8946 0414 Opening
Hours
Saturday
9:00am to
5:00 pm

#### Services offered at D Parry Pharmacy:

Free Repeat Prescription collection service from the following surgeries:

- 1) Vineyard Hill Road Surgery 2) Alexandra Road Surgery
- 3) Southfields Practice (formerly Revelstoke Surgery). 4) Queens Rd Surgery
- If you are a patient at these surgeries, drop your repeat to us and your medicines will be ready for collection in up to three working days.
- Photo processing (including digital processing) at reasonable prices with next day delivery. Other photo services like reprints, enlargements and print from print also available.
- We stock a large range of baby products, vitamins, herbal products and homeopathy medicines.
- Our pharmacist is always happy to help you if you want advice on healthcare matters.
- Why not try our new service of getting your blood pressure and blood glucose monitored at the pharmacy.
- We run an Accredited Stop Smoking Service.
- Thinking of Giving up? Ask a member of the Pharmacy Team.

D Parry Pharmacy serving the local population for nearly 100 years and under present management for 19 years and still here for you!

#### **Support your local Pharmacy**

#### **Christmas Hours**

Dec 23rd Thur	08:30 to 7:00 pm	Dec 29th Wed	08:30 to 6:00pm
Dec 24th Fri	08:30 to 5:00 pm	Dec 30th Thurs	8:30 to 7:00 pm
Dec 25th & 26th Sat / Sun	Closed	Jan 1st & 2nd Sat / Sun	Closed
Dec 27th Mon	11:00 to 12:00 noon	Jan 2nd	11:00 am to 12 noon
Dec 28th Tues	Closed	Jan 3rd bank Holiday	Closed

### Sarkhels

#### **INDIAN CUISINE**

199-197 Replingham Road, Southfields, London, SW18 5LY Tel. 020 8870 1483 www.sarkhels.com **Sunday Buffet Lunch £9.95** 



Chef Udit Sarkhel

### Dalchini

#### Hakka Chinese Cuisine

147 Arthur Road, Wimbledon Park (Tube), London, SW19 8AB Tel. 020 8947 5966 www.dalchini.co.uk Express Lunch £5





Sarkhel's – former winner of the Carlton Restaurant Awards Best Indian Restaurant and twice nominee of The Evening Standard Readers' Favourite Restaurant' – is to open its second branch in East Sheen.

Chef Udit Sarkhel and his wife and manager Veronica have opened a 38 seat restaurant in simple homely style with the same menu that has proved so popular with diners in their first restaurant in Southfields.



### Calcutta Notebook

#### BENGALI CUISINE

201 Replingham Road, Southfields, London, SW18 5LY Tel. 020 8874 6603 www.sarkhels.com Express Lunch £5 (Mon-Sat)