



Find out about the proposed Wimbledon Town Neighbourhood Forum. And how the neighbourhood plan (which will carry real weight in the planning process) can help achieve the changes we want. And prevent those we don't want.

The artist Jonathan Parker will show his drawings of Wimbledon and discuss how ways of seeing the town can become part of the planning process.

Anthony Wilkinson will talk about the Wimbledon Concert Hall project.

Everyone is welcome to this free event.

**Merton Arts Space  
(at the back of the library)  
Thursday 20 June 2019, 7.15pm**

Image: The Broadway, looking towards the theatre. Copyright Jonathan Parker

## PRESS RELEASE : THE COMPLETE NEIGHBOURHOOD

"What will happen to our town?" is a question that concerns many people including the artist Jonathan Parker, who has been living in Wimbledon since 1993. In 2018, when he heard how important a neighbourhood plan could be when dealing with issues raised by recent planning proposals, particularly building heights, Parker started drawing contemporary Wimbledon and joined the Wimbledon neighbourhood plan working group. Subsequently he has organised a Wimbledon Civic Forum event on 20th June with the help of Marcus Beale Architects, to raise awareness of the Wimbledon Town Neighbourhood Forum for both residents and businesses. He will be showing all 30 of his Wimbledon drawings - hanging them together for the first time in the Library's Arts Space - to help form a basis for debate about the neighbourhood. This will be chaired by Stephen Hammond MP. There will also be a talk by Anthony Wilkinson, trustee of the Wimbledon Concert Hall project, potentially bringing the first Frank Gehry building to the UK.

*Parker: "I know people have strong instincts about their neighbourhood and how the future might look. I've tried to fathom mine through this work. Drawing is a good way to understand time and place and feelings about those things. It's a unique human activity, making sense of the world. I have some basic rules to help me see more clearly the relationship between things within a single drawing. Although the broad technique is quite suggestive, I'll focus on a few points of energy and detail. Later, with more drawings to look at, I can identify the kind of atmosphere certain locations present and try and make a judgement."*

In this Wimbledon series there are different elements to understand; people, trees, traffic, buildings and the sky, drawn onto paper that has a blue-black ground. The artist used a similar approach for his breakthrough exhibition - Familiarity and Mystery (2017) - which dealt with the transition of a grand country house from family home to National Trust property.

*Parker: "When I draw well, time seems to stand still. Instinct overrides thought and that's important. I hope that showing the drawings together and giving some insight into their creation can be a catalyst for passionate and thoughtful debate about Wimbledon; part of a framework to enable the reality of the neighbourhood to be understood better, with the changes to be made, guided in a positive way by people who care."*

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Jonathan Parker was born in Northern Ireland in 1968 while his father Brian, an English civil engineer, was leading the Belfast transportation study. He is best known for portraits (to be seen on the ArtUK.org website), including one of his father as Chairman of the Twickenham Society and he has also made distinctive series of paintings that broadly signal the action of time. He grew up in Twickenham and attended King's College School, where he began drawing seriously. Several fine paintings by the artist can be seen at King's in Wimbledon. Mabel Parker, his great grandmother, was a one of the first women artists to study at the Slade. Her etchings of Oxford and Cambridge and towns throughout the country are a source of inspiration for the artist today.