All the fun of the Fair?!  
My back’s killing me!

AGM 14th October  
See details on pages 22 & 23
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Chairman’s Report

In June we held a Centenary Fair at the Athletics Stadium, in Wimbledon Park, and I hope that a great many of you managed to attend. To our great surprise the event was (we thought) an outstanding success. (See page 14 onwards for coverage and photos). I say to our great surprise because when we first started planning the event we were concerned about the costs of putting it on and rather pessimistic about the numbers who might attend. In fact we decided that it was such an important event to put on that the Association should be prepared to underwrite a loss. What we did not anticipate was that due to the huge enthusiasm and hard work contributed by the organising team, ably led by DeNica Fairman, the event attracted a wide variety of participants and on the day - one of the few sunny ones this summer—somewhere between 2000 and 3000 people. As a result we made a profit of over £6000. This money will go towards the fund we are now building to give us a good start with the administration of the new community centre which will be part of the redevelopment of Wimbledon Park Hall.

We have had tremendous feedback from residents and participants, so much so that we have decided to put on another one next year on the 13th June in the same location. So put the date in your diaries!

Wimbledon Park Hall

Planning permission was granted for the redevelopment, in April this year, subject to satisfactory discussions on the Section 106 Agreement (of the Town and country Planning Act 1990). Generally described as ‘planning obligations’, this refers to an agreement between the Council and the developer of a piece of land which requires the developer to make certain financial contributions towards making more acceptable those things that are deemed unacceptable relating to the development. Part of the terms imposed by the original tender brief on the development was that the development should have ‘car free’ status. This means that the occupants of the 14 proposed flats would not be entitled to have residents’ parking permits. (see article on the next page from the latest Wimbledon Society newsletter.)

Recently the developer made an application to the planning department to have this condition set aside, arguing that, based upon a survey they conducted, allowing the issue of permits would not have a detrimental effect on parking in the surrounding area. This application provoked a considerable number of objections from local residents and also the WPRA. The application was heard by the planning committee on the 11th September and, in accordance with the recommendation of the planning officers, was rejected by the committee.

We are hopeful that, now this issue is out of the way, the developer will sign the Section 106 agreement and allow this, long overdue, development to proceed.
9-15 Haslemere Avenue

The planning application for the above was finally heard on the 19th June, with the officers recommendation to grant permission subject to certain conditions. As you will be aware from previous newsletters, the residents living around the proposed development have mounted a significant campaign to ensure that the end result of this application will be a suitable design that fits in with the surrounding area. In addition to retaining a planning consultant they engaged in considerable correspondence with the Environment Agency regarding the 'flood risk' implications of the proposed development.

A number of residents attended the committee meeting on the 19th June and three members spoke to the application for the three minutes allowed each. The team found they had more support for their objections and concerns from the committee members than they had anticipated and, with the full support of Cllr Ahmad, managed to have the application rejected on the following basis:

‘The proposed development due to its size, siting, and design, would - (a) fail to protect amenities from visual intrusion; (b) fail to respond and reinforce the locally distinctive patterns of development; and (c) fail to respect the siting, rhythm, scale, density, proportions, height, materials and massing of surrounding buildings; all contrary to Policies BE.15, BE.16 and BE.22 of the Adopted Merton Unitary Development Plan (October 2003).’

I understand the Council are appealing this decision, so we await with interest the outcome of that appeal.

***************

‘Car Free’ Housing Development – Car Clubs

Traffic congestion in town centres is a problem that affects all of us - motorists, road users and pedestrians. Projected increases in the population of London threaten to make the situation worse. Planning policies are focussed on reducing car travel, and giving priority to other methods of travel. Policy PK6 in the 2003 UDP deals with ‘Car-free Development’. This applies when planning permission is sought for new housing in areas where there is good access to public transport (PTAL rating). The grant of permission with no parking on site is made subject to a condition that flat purchasers will not be eligible for residents’ car-parking permits, and this is enforced through the operation of Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs). There are sometimes allegations that individuals find ways of getting round the ‘no car, no-permit’ rules, but generally the system appears to make a contribution to reducing car ownership and use. One way in which purchasers of ‘car-free’ flats can meet a need for occasional access to a car is by joining a car club. This system (well developed in the USA and some European countries) is now well established in Merton, with over 700 members across the Borough. There are special bays for the parking of car club vehicles in CPZs, and new bays are in process of being added, including some in roads around the Village. The Society’s input to early consultation on the LDF supported the general thrust of Council policy in this area.

By kind permission of the Wimbledon Society, from their latest newsletter.
Kiddickicks

Kiddikicks Sports Limited offers fun football classes to local children from the ages of 18 months up to 5 years. We have classes running in many of the Royal Parks in London and various church halls, dance studios and leisure facilities in London. What is great about what we do, is how we encourage parent/carer participation in the health of their children using football as the theme. We also encourage children to let of steam and play. We will be starting a class at St Luke’s Church in Wimbledon Park in September.

Kiddickicks is a small family run business, run by myself a mother of two children (3 years and 4 months) and as such I prefer to communicate by email since this works best with the commitments of motherhood. However, I can also be contacted on 020 8977 0529 and 07723 915301.

Sarah@kiddikicks.co.uk. www.kiddikicks.co.uk
We are looking for help with producing the newsletter.

If you might be interested please contact:
Iain Simpson on 020 8947 1301
Email: iainsimpson@imi-consulting.com

A Musical Experience and
Education for the Under 5s

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Action Songs
Musical Stories
Percussion Instruments

Sessions held in West Wimbledon, Wimbledon Park and Wimbledon Village

For further information contact:
Jenny Tabori on 020-8946-6043
L.T.C.L. G.T.C.L. Dip. Music Therapy
1908 Olympic Games
White City, London

The Man Who Became Famous
For Not Winning

On 24 July 1908, diminutive Italian baker, Dorando Pietri entered the Olympic stadium at the end of the 1908 marathon. Pietri, a completely unknown runner, went on to become an international celebrity. Ahead of the other runners, he staggered around the last lap to the finish line, only to be disqualified for receiving assistance.

Pietri was born in Mandrio, Italy on 16 October 1885.

He was fascinated by running and in 1904 went to watch famous Italian runner, Pericle Pagliani, race in Capri. Still in his work clothes he was so carried away by the race he ran to the finishing line ahead of Pagliani! By 1907 he was the undisputed leader of Italian long distance races.

Dorando Pietri had trained hard for the London Olympics. July 24, 1908 was an unusually hot summer’s day. 56 racers started the London marathon which measured 42,195 km, a distance which became official from 1921.

The race began at 14.33. Pietri started slowly, but gained second position behind South African Charles Hefferon. When he knew that Hefferon was failing, Pietri increased his pace, overtaking him at the 39 km mark, about one mile from the stadium. The effort took its toll and with only two kilometers to go, he began to feel the effects of fatigue and dehydration.

When he entered the stadium, the cheering crowd new immediately that something was wrong as Pietri was running in the wrong direction. Officials redirected him, but he collapsed. Helped to his feet, he continued to fall. Officials lifted up Pietri and helped him across the finish line............

he had won the marathon!
Of his total time of 2h 54min 46s, ten minutes were needed for that last 350 meters.

The next runner in the stadium was John Hayes of the United States.

The American team lodged a complaint against the help Pietri received from the officials, the complaint was accepted and Pietri was disqualified.

Queen Alexandra presented Pietri with a gold cup, an act proposed by the writer, Arthur Conan Doyle.

Irving Berlin wrote a popular song in his honour, ‘Dorondo’, and he inspired a marathon craze that spread around the world.

“It would be no exaggeration,” declared The New York Times, to say that the finish of the marathon at the 1908 Olympics in London was "the most thrilling athletic event that has occurred since that Marathon race in ancient Greece"

Pietri returned to Italy in May 1909 and continued racing professionally for two more years.

His last marathon was in Buenos Aires, on May 24, 1910, where he achieved his personal best of 2h 38min 48:2s.

Pietri lived in Sanremo, Italy, until his death from a heart attack, at the age of 56 on 7th February, 1942

The finish of the 1908 Olympic marathon remains one of the most famous in history.

‘I am not the marathon winner. Instead, as the English say, I am the one who won and lost victory’  Dorando Pietri 30 July 1908

Source: www.olympic.org – official website
INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT MARATHONS

HISTORY

The name "marathon" comes from the legend of Pheidippides, according to legend Pheidippides ran from the town of Marathon to Athens to announce that the Persians had been defeated in the Battle of Marathon. There is no evidence however that any such event took place and, According to the Greek historian Herodotus, was invented by later writers, and that Pheidippides ran from Athens to Sparta.

The distance Pheidippides was alleged to have run from the Marathon battlefield to Athens has been estimated by the International Olympic Committee as 34.5 km (21.4 miles).

The first modern Olympic Games was held in 1896 in Athens and it was agreed to have a marathon in the program. A Greek shepherd, Spiridon Louis, won the first marathon at the Olympics in 2 hours, 58 minutes and 50 seconds, despite stopping on the way for a glass of wine from his uncle waiting near the village of Chalandri. The women's marathon was introduced at the 1984 Summer Olympics (Los Angeles, USA).
INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT MARATHONS

DISTANCE

There was no set length for a marathon race as all that was important was that the athletes competed on the same course. The exact length of an Olympic marathon varied depending on the route established for each venue.

The choice of distance was somewhat arbitrary. The first Olympics in 1896 had a marathon distance of 40 km.

The starting point for the 1908 Olympic marathon in London was modified so that the Royal Family could have a good view and the length happened to be 42.195 km (26 miles).

For the next Olympics in 1912, the length was changed to 40.2 km and changed again to 42.75 km for the 1920 Olympics. Of the first 7 Olympic games, there were 6 different marathon distances between 40 and 42.75 km (40 km being used twice).

A fixed distance of 42.195 km was adopted in 1921 by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) as the official marathon distance.

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
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<td>40</td>
<td>24.85</td>
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<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>40.26</td>
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<td>1904</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>24.85</td>
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<tr>
<td>1906</td>
<td>41.86</td>
<td>26.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>1908</td>
<td>42.195</td>
<td>26.22</td>
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<td>1912</td>
<td>40.2</td>
<td>24.98</td>
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<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>42.75</td>
<td>26.56</td>
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<td>Since 1924</td>
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When the Olympic Games came to London in 1908, The marathon started in front of the Royal apartments at Windsor Castle and ended on the track at White City stadium in front of the Royal Box.

Useful Information

Problems travelling on Public Transport?

When travelling on public transport is no longer an option there are other ways of getting around London for older and disabled people.

These services are not to get you to work and it is not advisable to use them for very important appointments such as hospital outpatients appointments where getting there by a certain time is essential.

Hospital Appointments

If you need help getting to these speak to your GP or hospital consultant as you can use non-emergency patient transport which is provided by the Primary Care Trust at no cost to you.

Freedom Pass

This allows older and eligible disabled people in London to travel free on London’s public transport. For more information contact 020 7747 4858/4821 or at www.freedompass.org

Dial-a-Ride

This is a 7 days a week door-to door service which can be used for all sorts of appointments such as shopping, visiting friends, going to the doctors. To be eligible you must have a permanent or long-term mobility problem. You may be asked to have a mobility assessment unless you are:

- A member of Taxicard
- Registered blind
- In receipt of a Higher Rate Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance
- In receipt of a War Pension Mobility Supplement
- Over 85 years old

To apply contact 0845 9991 999 or at www.tfl.gov.uk/dialaride.

There are additional dialaride services for disabled Londoners; to find out more contact the London Dial-a-Ride Travel Assistance Scheme on 020 7027 5822

Taxicard

This is available to people with impaired mobility when public transport is not always accessible and is available 24 hours a day. It can be used for social trips only such as shopping, visiting friends, going out to events. Members are allocated a limited number of
trips they can take each month/year and you will have to pay but at a reduced rate. You will be eligible to join Taxicard if you:

- Receive the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance
- Are registered blind
- Receive a War Pension Mobility Supplement
- need to be able to use ordinary black taxis
- Have access to a telephone (for booking taxis)
- Are resident of the London Borough of Merton

If you are not in one of the above categories you can get your GP to certify you are eligible for a Taxicard or undergo a mobility assessment.

To apply you will need to complete an application form. To receive a form please contact Merton Council (details below)The completed form should be returned to the following address:

London Councils Transport & Environment Committee - Taxicard on 020 7484 2929
ALG TEC Taxicard
New Zealand House
80 Haymarket
London SW1Y 4TZ

**Capital Call**

This service uses licensed taxis and you must be a Taxicard member to apply for this service. It can be used for social visits and also for doctors appointments, not for hospital appointments. At the end of the journey, you pay the driver the flat fare of £1.50 for every journey, and the Borough will subsidize up to a maximum of a further £10.30 for each journey.

You will be allocated an annual travel budget. Merton allows a maximum of 60 trips per person per year (double swiping your taxicard if the journey exceeds the maximum £11.80 counts as two trips) until you use up your travel budget.

If you are a Taxicard member you can apply by calling Capital Call on 020 7275 2446 or Merton Council at:

London Borough of Merton
Concessionary Fares Section
Community & Housing
42 – 44 Russell Road
Wimbledon
SW19 1QL

Telephone: 020 7484 2929 (for general inquiries)
Telephone: 020 8545 4490 (for an application form for the taxi card scheme)

Full details of these can be found on the Transport for London website: www.tfl.gov.uk/pc or by phoning their 24hour Travel Information Call Centre on Capital Call 020 7222 1234
Wimbledon Park Centenary Fair June 14th 2008

The Centenary Fair, organised by the Wimbledon Park Residents Association, was unanimously declared an unqualified success.

The event, held in the Athletics Stadium in Wimbledon Park, was put on to celebrate 100 years since the establishment of Wimbledon Park and, in particular, two key centres of the community, namely St Luke’s Church and the Primary School, both celebrating their Centenaries this year. In keeping with the Edwardian theme, organiser DeNica Fairman and the lady members of the WPRA committee were splendidly adorned in period purple skirts while the chaps maintained the style by sporting jaunty boaters.

Complementing the many local trade stalls were various old fashioned favourites such as Skittles, Punch & Judy and donkey rides and Hercules Athletics Club organised a ‘Mini Olympics’ for the children.

Over 3,000 people turned up to support this special event from all corners of the area and beyond. The coconut shy ran out of coconuts, the caterers ran out of food and the bar had to call out for more Pimms and beer!

WPRA Chairman, Iain Simpson, remarked, “I think I am not alone in being staggered by the attendance at the Fair. Everyone involved has been fantastic and the personal commitment and effort that went into the preparation, for what was an amazing day, was definitely ‘awesome’!”

In response to the positive reaction and goodwill engendered by the event, the WPRA Committee has been urged to organise the Fair on an annual basis. Pencil in 13th June 2009 for another fun day!

Bracey Parish
ANNOUNCEMENT!!

Due to the huge success of the Centenary Fair this year and from the overwhelming requests for us to make it an annual event...

WE ARE DOING IT AGAIN NEXT YEAR!!

So......pop this date into your 09 Planners now:

Saturday 13\textsuperscript{th} June 2009

With all that we have learned from this year, we promise to make the fair bigger & even better next year!! The people of Wimbledon Park & Southfields deserve to have their own Summer Events and lets just say that the idea of a regular Summer Fair in the park seems to get a huge amount of local support. If you would like to join in the fun, or have any ideas for other local events please email:

wpsecretary@blueyonder.co.uk
There is no need to book for these free lectures. All welcome.

Thursday 9th October at The Lounge, Emmanuel Church, Ridgway (corner of Lingfield) at 8 for 8.15. “Running a manor house”

Carole Vivian was born and brought up in Wimbledon but now lives in Cornwall. Her talk on running a manor house will take, as an example, Trelawne manor in Cornwall and the Trelawny family. However, the methods of researching such social history are the same for manors everywhere and include the use of Court Rolls, Estate Books etc. So the lecture will be of interest to those fascinated by the many manor houses of Wimbledon as well as those with a particular interest in Cornish history.

Tuesday 4th November at Christchurch Hall, top of Cottenham Park Road at 8 for 8.15. “Fanny Burney in Surrey”

Linda Heath has for many years been a stalwart of the Leatherhead Local History Society and has contributed to many of their publications. Her subject, Fanny Burney has been described as one of the best woman writers of the 18th century. Also well known as a diarist, she held a position for many years as “second keeper of the robes” for Queen Charlotte.

Linda’s talk deals with Fanny’s life after she left the royal household and moved to Mickleham, Surrey where she married a French émigré who was escaping the French Revolution.

Wednesday 21st January 2009 at Drake House, St George’s Road at 8 for 8.15 “Surrey Spas”

Judy Goodman, author and local historian, lives in the old parish of Merton and is a leading member of the Merton Historical society. Having studied chemistry, the subject of spas is of particular interest to her as spas combine a knowledge of geology, chemistry, architecture, literature and social history. Judy’s talk will cover nine locations in the old county of Surrey (which included Wimbledon) where people took the waters, relaxed and enjoyed themselves. Most of the sites have disappeared but a few buildings still exist as do advertisements, prints, verses and plays.

Tuesday 24th February at Christchurch Hall, Cottenham Park Road at 8 for 8.15 “Changes in local ecology and nature conservation”

Dave Dawson is a professional ecologist and has worked for the last 24 years for nature conservation in London. Now retired from the Greater London Authority, he continues his interests in wildlife, ecology and related public policy issues. Living in Wimbledon Park, he has studied local wildlife sites for over 20 years. He will describe the richness and diversity of our wild plants, animals and natural landscapes; where they are found and how to maintain them and how to ensure people continue to enjoy them. He will also talk about trends in numbers and ask whether local species are under threat from global warming, alien pests, predators or persecution.

See separate flyer for the “Virtual” walk of literary Wimbledon on Sat Nov 29th
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AGM Notice
The Wimbledon Park Residents’ Association
Date: 14th October 2008
Time: 8.00 pm

Venue: St Austin’s Hall, Church of Christ the King,
The Crescent, off Arthur Road.

AGENDA

• Minutes of the last meeting
• Matters arising
• Chairman’s report
• Treasurer’s Report
• Election of Officers
• AOB

Guest Speakers:

Sim Comfort
Chairman, The Wimbledon Park Heritage Group

Richard Tracey
New London Assembly Member for
Merton & Wandsworth.

Also

The Right Honourable Sir John Wheeler, JP, DL.
Chairman of the Wimbledon Park Ward Community Panel

Sponsored by Aaron Abraham
Investment Representative at Edward Jones
Stockbrokers and Investment Advisors

Drinks and Nibbles
Sim Comfort, Chairman of the Wimbledon Park Heritage group

From Webster Groves, Missouri, Sim Comfort joined the US Navy at age 18 in 1960. Posts with the US Naval Security Group were Guam Island and Grosvenor Square, London. While on Guam, he read all of the Hornblower stories and while in London, he found the places and men from the stories, particularly Admiral Lord Nelson, who Forester drew much from in creating his fictional character.

There followed a career, of sorts, in London married to his English bride, Mary. Computer sales and financing were his speciality while naval history provided the balance to the commercial world.

During the middle 1970s, Sim Comfort Associates was formed and has published five maritime titles with the last two being authored by Sim. 2005 provided a departure from books with the publication of The Appleby Trafalgar Medal created by Malcolm Appleby.

Now retired from the computer industry, Sim and Mary reside in Wimbledon where Sim plays tennis and writes on matters maritime while Mary looks after the finances and two shore-based ship’s cats.

London Assembly Member, Richard Tracey
Conservative Party
Constituency: Merton and Wandsworth
Elected on 1 May 2008

Richard Tracey was MP for Surbiton for 14 years and an Environment Minister in the Thatcher Government. He also served as a senior member of the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee.

He is a Justice of the Peace and Freeman of the City of London. He was also Chairman of Wandsworth Conservatives from 2003 to 2008.

In 2006, he became Sport England Chair for South London. He takes an active interest in rowing and rugby football as President of both Kingston Amateur Regatta and Kingston RFC, and is a former Current Affairs broadcaster with BBC Television and Radio.

Born in Stratford upon Avon and educated at King Edward VI Grammar School and Birmingham University where he gained an LLB with Honours, he and his wife Kathy live in central Wandsworth and have four grown-up children.
On Sunday 22nd June, Patricia Gomez, Michael Moore, Christine Simpson and Jill Farmer set out to view and photograph all the 30 short-listed gardens, which had been selected in the preliminary round by eleven pairs of judges. After much pleasurable discussion, the finals’ judges agreed that the winners were:

Overall winner of the John Uden Cup (“Judges favourite”) and Best All-Season Garden:
13 Braemar Avenue

From a distance one is drawn to the house by beautiful pale pink pelargoniums cascading from boxes at every window, and a wisteria over the porch. Views framed by the branches of the hebe against the boundary wall invite closer inspection, which slowly reveals an abundance of lovely planting, with the space used to full advantage. The mix of co-ordinated pretty pastels, within an evergreen framework, includes hydrangeas, lavateras, geraniums and roses. The garden is a delight and a credit to the owner looking after it.

Best Container Garden: 64 Normanton Avenue

Cool green foliage, between climbing roses and hydrangeas in shades of pink and red, border an attractively tiled and slate-paved space, and set off this successful container garden. The lovely mix of colours, in the abundantly-planted pots, baskets and window boxes, echo and complement the rich red paintwork of the doors, giving a sense of vibrancy to the whole scene.
Best Summer Garden: 11 Farquhar Road

This little garden is full of interest, making good use of the limited space. The attractive selection of flowering and foliage plants, in sympathetic colours, includes fuschias, arums, geraniums, pelargoniums and hydrangeas. The window box and hanging baskets are filled with petunias, fuschias and lobelias.

Best Street: Brooklands Avenue

Although one of the shorter streets in Wimbledon Park, Brooklands Avenue contains a very high proportion of attractive gardens, giving the impression of a sense of pride and community by the residents.

Jill Farmer. Organiser

W. A. GARDNER & SON
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Principals: Angela Taggart & Lorraine Greeley-Ward
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WELLINGTON ROAD WIMBLEDON PARK SW19 TEL: 0774 9899976
Wimbledon Park Athletics Stadium

Exciting plans have been drawn up for a new state of the art community clubhouse at Wimbledon Park athletics stadium. The clubhouse will replace the green portacabin alongside the finishing line and while it will primarily benefit the use of the facility for athletics, it will also provide a much improved and modern facility for other users such as Wimbledon Park Residents' Association for its annual festival day which is planned for the track.

The main feature of the new community clubhouse will be a sizeable multi-purpose area which can be adapted to various sporting, recreational and leisure uses such as indoor training, keep fit and yoga sessions, one o'clock clubs, committee and public meetings and small conferences and lectures. It would also be able to be used in conjunction with events taking place on the athletics track such as sports meetings, festivals and fairs.

Apart from the multi-purpose area the 100m square single storey building, which will be considerably larger than the existing portacabin, will also contain an office, storage area, kitchen and toilets for both able-bodied and disabled users. It will also be environmentally friendly with a grass roof and green walls.
The plans for the new community clubhouse have been drawn up by Hercules Wimbledon Athletic Club which is based at Wimbledon Park and some of whose members helped successfully organise the kids races at our Centenary Festival in June. The proposals have been given planning permission by Merton Council. Funding is being sought from various outside bodies.

History of Hercules Wimbledon

Hercules Wimbledon was formed in 1967 through the amalgamation of Wimbledon (founded 1953) and Hercules (founded 1933) athletic clubs. The athletics track is as old as Queen Elizabeth II's reign as it was built in 1952 as one of the Coronation year projects. It was formally opened on June 11 1952 with a match between teams from Surrey and British Olympic Possibles. Sydney Black, the perhaps lesser known brother of Wimbledon's former MP Sir Cyril Black, was Mayor that year. He was a great benefactor to sport in Wimbledon and played an instrumental part in the having the track built.

Britain's former World-beating endurance runner Gordon Pirie and the great Olympic sprinter McDonald Bailey, were among those who took part in that inaugural meeting as well as Olympic steeplechaser John Disley who, along with Chris Brasher, who also turned out for the Olympic Possibles team, went on to found the London Marathon some 30 years later. Wimbledon Athletic Club, under its energetic chairman Tommy Robertson thrived through the '50's and '60's and boasted some of Surrey's top officials. The grandstand was added in 1961 and was formerly opened with a match between Surrey and various other teams on May 27 that year. Wimbledon Park was now a first-class facility and on August 12 it hosted an international match between Great Britain and Switzerland.

Meanwhile, Hercules which was based at Tooting Bec in Wandsworth, had many top athletes but lacked officials and this was the basis for the merger. The new club was based at Wimbledon Park and went from strength to strength.

However, Merton Council, in a situation not dissimilar to its current position, found itself strapped for cash in the 1980's and maintenance of the track deteriorated to such an extent that Hercules Wimbledon decided it was no longer suitable for home matches and was forced to stage 'home' matches at various locations including Battersea Park and the London University track at Motspur Park. At the same time, Corinthian Casuals Football Club, which was no longer based at its traditional ground at the Oval, began negotiations with Merton Council for a 65 year lease of the Wimbledon Park stadium with the installation of floodlights and the construction of a new car park.

Continued on Page 37
Considerable planning and organisation culminated in the most magnificent year of events celebrating this significant milestone in the school’s history. Each class adopted a decade of the last 100 years as the focus for linking the curriculum creatively. The parents and members of the local community were involved from the beginning, joining members of staff as part of the large cast of our CENTENARY PANTOMIME Cinderella, which entertained the children and Wimbledon Park community in a heart warming traditional way. We were delighted to be able to work in partnership with the Polka Theatre throughout the year linking the Polka into the centenary events happening at Wimbledon Park.

In the Spring Term we held a CENTENARY OPEN DAY the parents were taken back in time and travelled through the past 100 years in the charming company of pupil ‘time traveller’ guides. It was an extraordinary afternoon. We were delighted with the large turnout of parents, governors, past pupils and staff. All of the children and staff who dressed in the clothes of their decade, went to flamboyant lengths to bring their decade to life. In the summer term we re-enacted the 1908 Olympics at the Wimbledon Park Stadium. Again our staff and parents entered into the spirit of the event and wore 1908 costumes! It was a privilege to welcome Elsie Pye back to our school to celebrate her 100th birthday during the school’s centenary year. Mrs Pye was a dinner lady at the school for 30 years before retiring 35 years ago. We took the whole school on an outing to Kew Gardens for a fun day in the beautiful Royal Botanic Gardens.
The Centenary Year culminated in a GRAND CENTENARY WEEKEND of events under a marquee in our school grounds. A vintage carousel was the highlight of the weekend. There was a Disco in the marquee for our children and past pupils. For the adults there was a Grand Centenary Ball, featuring moonlight, music, dining, dancing and a special auction. The nostalgic sound of the carousel put smiles on everyone's faces throughout the weekend. The fairground theme and atmosphere was a wonderful stimulus for creative activities in the classroom.

But the achievement we are most proud of was the launch of ‘Bags for Better Lives’ by our Eco Committee in partnership with Sustainable Merton, which resulted in Wimbledon Park becoming the first area of London to go plastic free.

A TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER HOUSDEN

3rd April 1942 – 29th August 2008

Sadly at the end of the summer holidays Christopher Housden a highly respected governor of Wimbledon Park Primary School for 12 years and retired local councillor died after a long illness. He chaired the Premises Committee for that time and played a major role in preventing the school from becoming a one form entry primary school in the 1990s. He lived a remarkable life. He travelled the world and engaged in so many enterprises. He was a highly intelligent, talented linguist. At 18 he was awarded a travelling scholarship to Egypt. Before going to Selwyn College Cambridge he joined the Civil Service in Lebanon to learn Arabic. He had a law qualification and worked for the British Council in Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Columbia, Oman and Malawi. He was the owner of Wimbledon School of English in Worple Road.

To the end he had a wicked sense of humour. His life and pride was centred around his family. He was happily married for over forty years and has two daughters and five grandchildren. Christopher was a lovely, kind, generous and supportive friend to me, the school and the Governing Body of Wimbledon Park. He had boundless energy and was dedicated to his local community and to the children of Wimbledon Park and proud of the school's achievements, particularly our Eco activities. He will be greatly missed. We would like to celebrate his memory by putting an all weather cricket pitch into the ‘Rec’, to be used by the school and local residents. We thought this would be fitting because Christopher was a very loyal and passionate cricket supporter. I have already approached the local authority who are looking into the logistics of making it happen.

Ludvic Lichtenstein – ‘Tell them all I had a wonderful life!’

Dee Russell (Headteacher)
Arthur Road Flower Boxes

Hello All

Just a few comments in addition to Jill’s excellent report on the Front garden Awards.

After the planting of the Flower Boxes, in Arthur Road in May, we had some very cold nights so it took quite a while for them to get going. Then at the end of June the Council decided to paint the railings and how much better they look green.

The boxes had to be taken down and put up again - not an easy job. All was fine until some twit came along and pulled out the Petunias. I replanted them the next day but they have not really recovered. Next year we plan to add some additional boxes near the station.

I would like to compliment St Luke’s Church and Wimbledon Park Primary School for keeping such delightful gardens. They always look good. It is things like this that make our area such a good place to live.

This also a good opportunity to record our thanks to the All England Club for supplying the lovely hanging baskets on the lampposts all the way down Arthur Road. It is very generous and they do cheer the place up!

Michael Moore
Wimbledon Winter Wonderland takes place on Thursday November 27th from 5pm to 8pm.

Come and celebrate the start of the festive season with live music, street entertainment and a spectacular fireworks display from the rooftop of Centre Court.

For up to date information, visit www.wimbledontowncentre.co.uk

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SIMPLY CALL 020 7652 4296
Around the same time, Wandsworth Council decided to upgrade its track at Tooting Bec to an eight-lane floodlit facility. Following discussions with Wandsworth Council, Hercules Wimbledon agreed to re-locate to the modern facility at Tooting and strenuously oppose the Corinthian Casuals proposals which it perceived would result in a death of athletics at Wimbledon Park.

With half of the track in Wandsworth - if you run 100 metres you run from Wandsworth into Merton - residents in Wimbledon Park Road were furious when they heard of the football club proposals and berated football club officials at a memorable and heated public meeting. Councillors in Wandsworth rejected their planning officer's recommendation to approve the Corinthian Casual plans and refused planning permission, a decision which was upheld by the Secretary of State for the Environment following a five-day public inquiry.

Corinthian Casuals then abandoned their proposals for Wimbledon Park and moved to King George’s Playing Fields at Tolworth where they are still based. With Hercules Wimbledon operating successfully at Tooting Bec, this left Wimbledon Park virtually unused. However, in 1990, Councillor Barry Edwards, then chairman of Merton’s recreation committee, ordered officers to find the funding to upgrade Wimbledon Park to an all-weather track with floodlighting. While the track was upgraded installing the floodlights proved a more challenging issue. On the basis of the previous planning refusal, Wandsworth consistently withheld consent until Hercules Wimbledon suggested a more modest scheme. In 2000, Wandsworth agreed to installation of lower level lights and in October that year Hercules Wimbledon returned to Wimbledon Park.

The club holds regular training sessions for all abilities on Tuesdays and Thursday evenings from 6.30 to 9pm and on Sunday morning's from 10.30 to 12noon. There is also a younger 7upsnosters Sunday morning group from 10 to 11am. More information about Hercules Wimbledon can be found on the club's website: www.herculeswimbledonac.org.uk.

Tom Pollak

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Readers are advised to make appropriate enquiries and seek advice before sending money, incurring any expense or entering into binding commitment in relation to an advertisement.

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You are welcome to drop your subscription through the door of the Membership Secretary, DeNica Fairman at 3 Strathmore Rd, or of our Chairman, Iain Simpson at 56 Home Park Rd.

www.wimbledonpark.com
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We are delighted to support the Wimbledon Park Residents’ Association and we are always happy to advise on property values and any aspect of the market.
Dalchini is one of its kind in London. Indians and travellers to the subcontinent are familiar to this cuisine. To most it is comfort food when they miss India. The Hakka cuisine is a wonderful marriage of oriental techniques with Indian ingredients. Nothing personifies this marriage more than the influence of Veronica, of Hakka Chinese origin but raised in Bombay and her team.

Special 25% discount available until the end of October 2008. Discount valid only on food order on the a la carte menu. Call to make a booking. Not valid on Friday and Saturday evenings Bring this page to claim your discount.