



*Easter 2013*



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## **Easter edition 2013**

### **Contents**

*Cover photo courtesy of Andrew Wilson from his new book  
Wild About Wimbledon*

<b>Chairman's Report</b>	<b>4 &amp; 5</b>
<b>Plan and CGI of Wimbledon Park Hall</b>	<b>6 &amp; 7</b>
<b>PC Terry Elmer</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Operation Fortress</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Friends of Wimbledon Park (official) launch</b>	<b>10, 11 &amp; 12</b>
<b>Crime Figures</b>	<b>14 &amp; 16</b>
<b>Wandle Valley Forum</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>The Cresidents</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Join the WPRA</b>	<b>20 &amp; 21</b>
<b>Merton Residents Healthcare Forum (MRHF)</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Love Wimbledon</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>An Easter Message</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>The Front Garden Awards 2013</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>John Evelyn - still an inspiration today</b>	<b>30,32 &amp; 34</b>
<b>Wimbledon Village Hall Gallery</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Safer Neighbourhoods team</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Durnsford Recreation Ground</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Index of Advertisers</b>	<b>42</b>

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## **Chairman's Report**

### ***Wimbledon Park Hall***

**Progress on the building seems to be very good although the cold weather has caused some delay, as I understand that cement work cannot be carried out successfully under 5 degrees celsius. Despite this it looks like a target date of early September for finishing.**

**We had a meeting with the Council recently and the Business Plan we had submitted has been approved. So we are now awaiting receipt of the draft lease. This is something we asked for some time ago but so far has not appeared. In order to set up a Trust and register as a charity we need to have something tangible to show and discuss with the Charity Commission.**

**In the meantime, amongst other things, we are focusing on the design and content of the kitchen for the Café and the kitchenette for the hall.**

**When first developing the original business plan, a Café with suitable kitchen was considered a key ingredient. This provided the opportunity to rent out the Café as a concession and achieve two main aims. The first was to provide a source of regular income and the second was to provide a social hub which would attract local residents who we would hope adopt the Café as their local gathering place. At the same time it would provide hirers, and those waiting, with a comfortable place to while away the time. Given the very high proportion of young mothers with children, there should be sufficient room for meeting and parking the ever present buggies.**

**The changes to the overall plan put forward by the developer and approved by the Council in 2011, were necessary to improve the potential profitability of the project, on paper, in order to attract bank funding or a Joint Venture partner. However this did impact considerably on the space allocated on the ground floor to the Café and kitchen. Nevertheless we still remain confident that it is still a viable business concession for someone to operate; albeit on reduced expectations of rental income on our part. We still consider the Café as a most important potential hub for the total facility and would hope that it would operate at least six days a week.**

**The Café would form the focal point for the facility and be open all day to the public, as well as people using the Hall. The Café and the Hall would have the capability of being used on an integrated basis for functions and events, e.g. dinner dances etc.**

**It is envisaged that the operation of the Café will be contracted out to an experienced third party to run, and would have very good kitchen facilities.**

**It does not provide sufficient preparation space to provide a wide ranging menu of bespoke meals but can provide most of what you would expect to be served in a Café, in terms of sandwiches, croissants, patisserie etc, plus short order meals such as typical breakfast (eggs, bacon sausage & tomato etc.) plus pre-made dishes which can be heated (shepherds pie, pizza) as well as desserts.**

In addition there may well be good demand from hirers to have catering done by the Café. This would afford another source of income for the operator and also possibly the Trust. If hirers wanted use of the facility for a function this could be made possible given sufficient advance notice. If this were the case, the operator would have to be on hand (providing additional income opportunity).

If the Café is successful, we have it in mind to possibly operate a training scheme for young people to get work experience and combine that with encouraging them to pursue appropriate NVQ (or other) qualifications.

Any expressions of interest in running the Café, from experienced operators, would be welcome.

### ***Wimbledon Park Car Park Extension***

I wrote about this in the last newsletter and since then there has been no further movement. One of our members who walks in the park virtually every day reported that during one day in the very cold spell in February he counted thirty four cars parked in the Revelstoke car park but the park was virtually deserted. This report and the other surveys carried out over time by other interested residents continues to confirm the wide use of this free parking facility by commuters and non park users.

The latest budget proposals by the Council seem to suggest that paid parking will be introduced in our parks and open spaces. I think in general we would welcome the introduction in Wimbledon Park. A parking restriction of say one hour in the middle of the day (the system successfully employed by Wandsworth Council in the Grid area) would deter the commuters and greatly improve the availability of spaces for proper park users. In turn this would, I am sure, considerably weaken the argument employed by the Council for additional parking spaces in the park.

### ***The Greyhound Stadium (site 37)***

The current consultation being carried out by the Council on 'sites and policies' has just concluded its second and final phase. A second document was issued by the Council in January reflecting the responses to the primary document and further research by the Council. The WPRA has responded to both phases of the consultation as we consider the ultimate development and use of the Greyhound Stadium site (site 37) is of great interest to all of us who live in Wimbledon Park Ward.

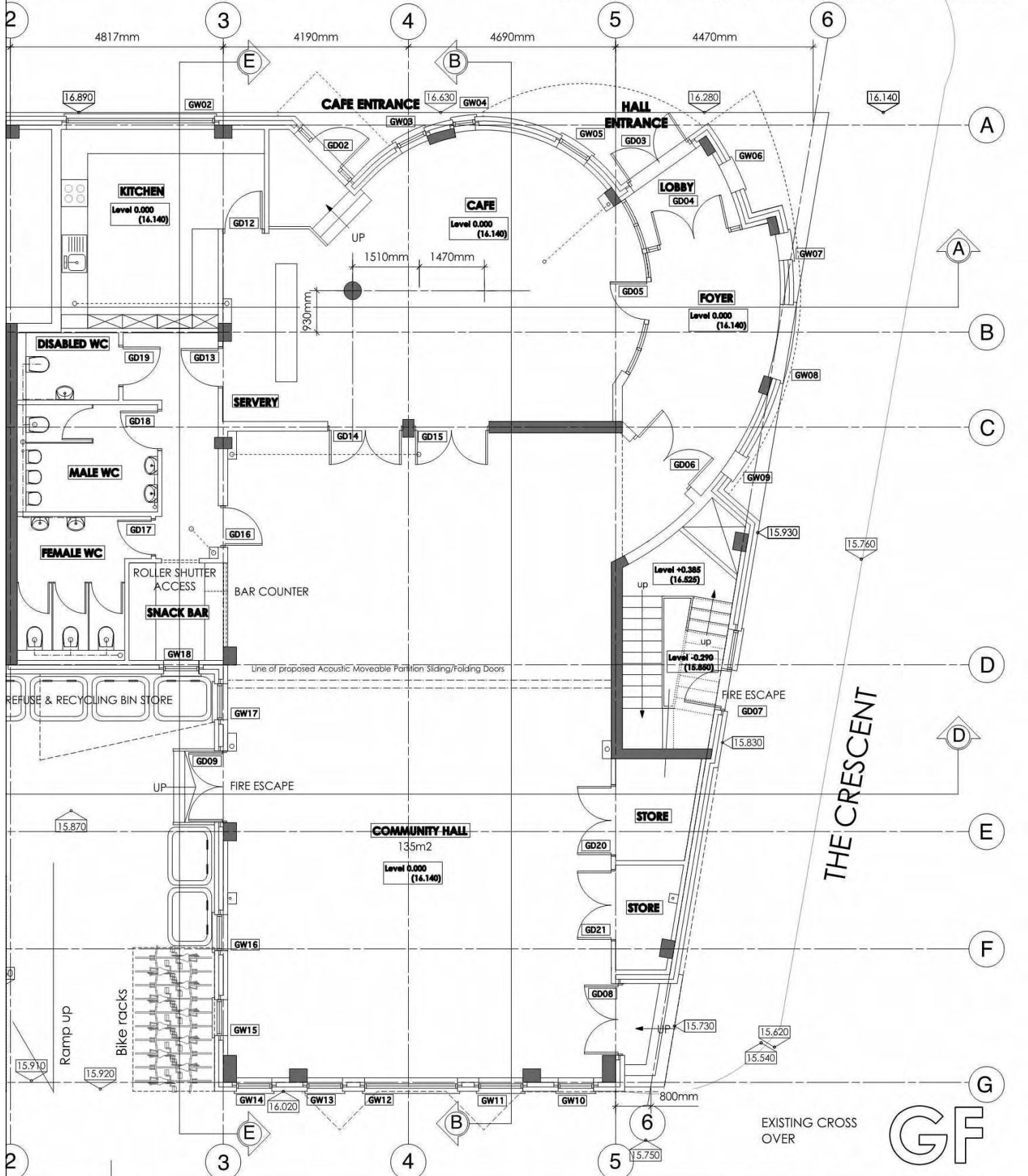
Although in the first phase document it was clear that 'Light industrial' was an acceptable category for development on the site, the subsequent document stated that there was no demand and, as a result, this important category has been deleted. Our submission argues that their argument on this point is unsustainable given the facts.

Also their document refers to 'enabling development'. This refers to the idea of building housing, flats or retail units to make the building of a new or upgraded stadium more financially viable. This is interesting in view of the fact that the site is on a flood plain and is considered, by the Environment Agency, completely unsuitable for this kind of development. Iain Simpson

# PLAN OF WIMBLEDON PARK HALL COMPLEX

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## **PC Terry Elmer**

**PC Terry Elmer was a well-known and highly regarded officer on the Wimbledon Park safer neighbourhoods team. It is with great sadness that we report that on the 22nd November 2012 he collapsed and died unexpectedly at home with his family. He had been on the team for a number of years and was always seen out and about on the ward. He was a true, old-fashioned police officer who knew everyone and loved helping people. He was an integral part of the team and always involved in all the ward activity.**



**Terry was an experienced officer and often tasked with the training of new recruits. He was in the thick of the riots in 2011 and worked through all the events of 2012 including the Jubilee celebrations and the Olympic Games.**

**He is a great loss to both the team and the local community. His work and his dedication led to his nomination for Police Officer of the year in Merton for 2012 and it is a fitting tribute that he has been posthumously awarded this prestigious title. In addition, his professionalism and the example he set is to be recognised with the re-naming of the award.**

**It will become the “Terry Elmer Award for Outstanding Achievement” in subsequent years.**

**Sgt Danny Smith 21VW**

**[WimbledonPark.snt@met.police.uk](mailto:WimbledonPark.snt@met.police.uk)**



## **Operation Fortress and burglary**

The Metropolitan Police have always treated burglary as a priority crime, especially when a residential property is concerned. It is still a relatively rare occurrence in the Wimbledon Park area but what might you expect if you were to have the misfortune of being broken into?

Firstly, if you believe that a suspect is still in either yours or someone else's property, you should dial 999. If it is obvious that the suspects are no longer about, you can report the incident by calling 101. A burglary in progress will always be treated as an immediate call and officers will get to you as soon as possible, if necessary they will divert from other tasks to get to the location quickly. Depending on the circumstances and their availability, you might also expect to get the police helicopter and dog units assigned to the call. The officers attending will search for suspects, secure the scene, check any CCTV and take details for a full report. Depending on the time of the incident they may also make enquiries with your neighbours. It is important to give full descriptions and details to allow them to circulate the best information available. A scene of crimes officer will also attend the location to assess whether there are any forensic opportunities and might take fingerprints, photos, swabs or other exhibits.

Once these initial actions have been completed, there will be further contact from the officer assigned to investigate the incident. This will usually be someone from the local CID. They will update you with whether there are any leads and how the investigation is progressing. They will continue to provide updates until the case is closed.

In addition you will be contacted by an officer from your local safer neighbourhoods team. This is likely to be a few days later to allow time to get back to normal and to check whether there are any other details which have become apparent since the day of the crime. You will be offered reassurance, support and advice.....

With this in mind, **Operation Fortress** has recently been launched across London. Every resident is being offered a free crime prevention survey by their local safer neighbourhoods team. We are trying to make your property more secure, whether it is your home, your car or even your shed. You can find your local teams' contact details on the Met Police website. If you call or e-mail the team, we will arrange to see you at a convenient time to speak with you about security and crime prevention.

**We would rather do this before someone has become a victim of crime and hopefully help prevent it altogether.**

**Please contact us if you would like a survey completed. The Wimbledon Park or Village teams cover most of this area and we can arrange for someone from your team to speak with you.**

Kind regards

Sgt Danny Smith 21VW [WimbledonPark.snt@met.police.uk](mailto:WimbledonPark.snt@met.police.uk)  
[Village@met.police.uk](mailto:Village@met.police.uk) 0208 721 2452 / 7

# **Friends of Wimbledon Park Official Launch**

## **Friends of Wimbledon Park Official Launch**

### **The Background**

**We are lucky to have such a beautiful park on our doorsteps providing fabulous nature and wildlife, recreational and leisure facilities for all who live nearby.**

**Long-term management and development of the park, the lake and surrounding land is complex, with a number of different owners and leaseholders as well as other stakeholders and, most importantly, local residents who use the park.**

**Friends of Wimbledon Park (FOWP) was created in 2012 by WPRA along with Southfields Grid and Wimbledon House Residents Associations, to create an umbrella organisation to bring together the different groups that own, control or use the park.**

### **What FOWP does**

**If the park is to thrive longer term, it needs all these groups to work together and take a more 'joined up' approach to decision-making about its future. FOWP provides a forum for interested parties and individuals to share views about the park and its facilities. The FOWP committee meets quarterly, and regular updates are circulated to all members via an email newsletter. Smaller groups (such as those interested in wildlife, sports, events etc) are formed to tackle particular issues and projects. An executive committee, whose members are elected at the AGM, oversees the management of FOWP.**

**We are fortunate that FOWP has the strong support and involvement of local MPs, councillors, and park officers from Merton Council many of whom attend the quarterly meetings**

### **FOWP Official Launch**

**The official launch of Friends of Wimbledon Park was held in the athletics pavilion on 20 February 2013. We now have a growing membership, a clear and strong constitution, a website and are on Facebook and Twitter!**

**At the launch, Nick Steiner, Chairman of FOWP, outlined the challenges ahead. As well as day-to-day issues such as litter, planting and park access, there are some bigger and potentially very exciting projects on the horizon.**

**The lake is in dire need of saving if it is to flourish longer term – it has deteriorated over the years and plant and fish life is declining. It's a substantial project likely to cost millions of pounds, for which grants and funding will be required.**

Horse Close Wood has interesting and important varieties of plants. Dave Dawson, our Environmental Advisor, explained the potential for managing the area so that the woodland glade can prosper.



Martin Sumpton, representing The Wimbledon Club outlined the thinking behind a

proposal from the club to sponsor a hockey pitch in the centre of the athletics track. We also heard from members of Hercules Wimbledon Athletics Club about the investment the stadium requires to bring it up to competition standard.

**Please support FOWP – it's easy!**

If FOWP is to succeed it needs active support and involvement from local residents. Annual membership is just £5 per adult and there are discounts for families and young members. Members receive a regular update and are entitled to vote at the AGM. To join, complete the form overleaf.

Alternatively please just pledge support by becoming an associate member – this is free and you can join by visiting our website at [www.friendsofwimbledonpark.org.uk](http://www.friendsofwimbledonpark.org.uk) and completing your details online. As associates you'll get access to additional news and updates. Demonstrating that we have a significant number of residents supporting FOWP will help with our funding and campaigning.

To get regular updates you can also follow us on Facebook ('Like' our *Friends of Wimbledon Park* page), or on twitter @fowpsw19

Please join or follow us, contribute your ideas and opinions and spread the word to your friends and neighbours.

Jackie Reiss, Executive Committee Member



# Friends Of Wimbledon Park

To join the 'Friends of Wimbledon Park' (FOWP) please complete the following:

Title ..... Forename ..... Surname ..... \*

Title ..... Forename ..... Surname ..... \*\*

Corporate name .....

Address .....

Post Code ..... Application Date .....

Email\*\*\* ..... Phone: .....

\*If youth add date of birth here.....

\*\*Family add any children's names under 16 years on back or separate sheet with date of birth.

\*\*\*Would you like to be included on an email list for FOWP updates & information? YES/NO

Please circle your interests: Trees / Plants / Wildlife / Birds / Sport / Dogs / Kids / Other .....

I can offer help with: Catering / Stewarding at events / Secretarial / Gardening / Other .....

## Annual subscription rates (circle selection)

Adult	£5	Family	£8
Youth-(16 -21)	£1	Corporate	£50

Your details will be kept on computer solely for administration purposes

Payment preferably by cheque made payable to 'Friends of Wimbledon Park'

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<a href="#"><u>Att. Burglary in a Dwelling.</u></a>	Window of victim's house smashed with a rock.	ASHEN GROVE	30/01/2013	1200	01/02/2013	1700
Att. Burglary Non Dwelling	Suspects have removed metal grating in order to gain entry to store room. Unknown if entry gained or not. No items missing at this stage.	DURNSFORD ROAD	02/02/2013	1	02/02/2013	1030
Burglary in a Dwelling.	The victim returned home after being at work to find her door ajar, there are no signs to suggest that the suspect(s) actually entered the premises but there is no obvious reason as to why the door was forced.	GAP ROAD	08/02/2013	800	08/02/2013	1800
Burglary in a Dwelling.	The front door was forced it would appear that the Yale locks clasp was kicked off the door. Property taken	DURNSFORD ROAD	11/02/2013	1000	11/02/2013	1940
Burglary in a Dwelling.	Victim returned home to find door was damaged, on entering property heard voices. Three suspects have then run past her and into a blue vehicle. On checks discovered untidy search of property made by suspects.	HOME PARK ROAD	22/02/2013	1100		
Burglary in a Dwelling.	By forcing entry to residential property.	HAVELOCK ROAD	25/02/2013	845	25/02/2013	1850
Burglary in a Dwelling.	Entry via forcing window open to a ground floor flat, not known what property has been taken	PITT CRESCENT	27/02/2013	2100		
Burglary Non Dwelling	Entry gained via rear window. Various gold jewellery taken	DURNSFORD ROAD	25/01/2013	1200	27/01/2013	0
Burglary Non Dwelling	suspect has entered garden and attempted to enter property by smashing back door window	DAWLISH AVENUE	01/02/2013	1705	01/02/2013	2355
Burglary Non Dwelling	Unknown person has entered a building site, broken a lock into the store cupboard and stolen 3 copper tubes and 4 rolls of green/yellow wiring.	ARTHUR ROAD	06/02/2013	1830	07/02/2013	700
Burglary Non Dwelling	Suspects have broken lock to garden, entered and then broken lock to shed. Suspects possibly disturbed	PITT CRESCENT	15/02/2013	1900	15/02/2013	2314
Burglary Non Dwelling	Victim is the owner of a Hydro phonics shop which was broken into. Large quantity of hydro phonic equipment taken.	WEIR ROAD	20/02/2013	1730	20/02/2013	2045
Burglary Non Dwelling	Unknown suspects have entered the rear of TOPPS TILES by breaking a large window and have then broken open the tills and left via the same route.	PLOUGH LANE	25/02/2013	2058	25/02/2013	2059
Burglary Non Dwelling	The lock to the mess door had been taken away. The Two items of garden equipment had been taken away. There was no force marks to the yale lock.	GAP ROAD	22/02/2013	1030	22/02/2013	1130
Burglary Non Dwelling	Secured unattended property taken by the Suspect	REVELSTOKE ROAD	11/02/2013	1750	12/02/2013	900
Burglary Non Dwelling	Entry gained , and till removed without knowledge or consent	PLOUGH LANE	28/02/2013	2130	28/02/2013	2141





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Crim Dam to M/Veh - under £500	Vehicle left secured. When vict returned to the vehicle he found that the passenger window had been smashed. No sign of entry to the vehicle.	DURNSFORD ROAD	17/11/2012	1400	17/11/2012	1430
Crim Dam to M/Veh - under £500	By unknown suspect (S) damaging motor vehicle tyre deliberately by placing screws in roadway	ARTHUR ROAD	24/01/2013	830	24/01/2013	840
Crim Dam to M/Veh - under £500		ARTHUR ROAD	30/01/2013	1700	10/02/2013	1230
Interference with Motor Vehicles	by suspects unknown breaking Victim lock to enter Victim vehicle.	R E V E L S T O K E ROAD	18/02/2013	1430		
Theft from Motor Vehicles	Suspect unknown has entered the ungated yard and stolen 2 batteries from underneath a secure unattended vehicle	WEIR ROAD	02/02/2013	1800	04/02/2013	700
Theft from Motor Vehicles	By suspect using unknown means to gain entry to vehicle. Vehicle searched and property stolen.	MOUNT ROAD	02/02/2013	1900	04/02/2013	1545
Theft from Motor Vehicles	Front and rear number plates stolen from vehicle	COPPER MILL LANE	02/02/2013	1800	04/02/2013	1700
Theft from Motor Vehicles	Victim stated that he had left his car at the venue whilst the garage tried to find a fault with his car. He has since been contacted by the garage who told him about the theft of 16 wheel nuts.	PLOUGH LANE	05/02/2013	1600	07/02/2013	1200
Theft from Motor Vehicles	Victim contacted police after finding that her drivers door and boot were open on her vehicle. no items stolen.	ALVERSTONE AVENUE	21/02/2013	1700	22/02/2013	900
Theft from Motor Vehicles	Vehicle was broken into and property taken.	FARQUHAR ROAD	14/02/2013	2000	20/02/2013	1830
Theft Not Classified Elsewhere	Suspects have jumped over gate to premises and stolen items which were stored in the yard. No entry gained to building. Items were all bathroom supplies	DURNSFORD ROAD	31/01/2013	1900	01/02/2013	800
Theft Not Classified Elsewhere	Victim's bank card retained by machine. Cash taken from the account.	Tootal Service Station, HAYDONS ROAD	02/02/2013	5		
Theft Not Classified Elsewhere	A steel window box stolen from the front bay window	KOHAT ROAD	24/02/2013	830	24/02/2013	1030
Theft of Motor Vehicle	Bike stolen	WEIR ROAD	17/02/2013	1	19/02/2013	1000
Theft of Pedal Cycles	Bike taken by unknown suspect - Whilst chained outside location	PLOUGH LANE	14/02/2013	800	14/02/2013	1500
Theft of Pedal Cycles	By victim leaving bicycle unsecured and unattended outside Wimbledon Stadium and it then being stolen.	PLOUGH LANE	27/02/2013	1015	27/02/2013	1025



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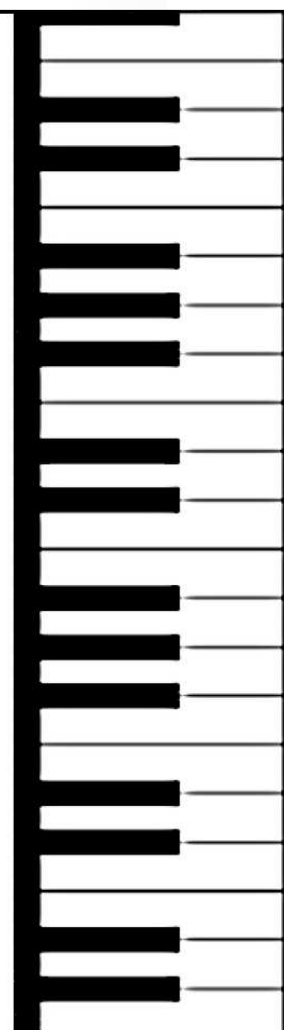
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# Wandle Valley Forum

## Wandle Valley Green Infrastructure Project

Groundwork London has secured Natural England funding for enhancing the green infrastructure functions of the Wandle Valley Regional Park (WVRP). The WVRP currently consists of around 100 parcels of land and covers a total area of 8,366,015 square meters. The project will carry out light-touch, volunteer-led surveys of each of these parcels using Groundwork's GIS based Green Space Mapper [www.greenspacemapper.org.uk](http://www.greenspacemapper.org.uk) that allows individuals to assess green and open spaces.

Durnsford Recreation Ground is included as one of these parcels of land. Other nearby sites include Garratt Park and King George's Park.

The questionnaire details include the following:-

General cleanliness,

Litter, dog fouling, graffiti, fly tipping etc.

Accessibility, including by public transport, wheelchair etc.

Safety, including safety at night,

Noise, popularity, equipment for play, spaces for sport,

The use of the space for events, as a shortcut, for walking, cycling, play for children.

## A Briefing and Celebration of the Launch Programme of London's biggest open space project this century

This will allow you to put your views on the park's developing plans and to learn about its star features:-

The remains of England's first parliament.

The most important bird sanctuary in SE England.

The river that inspired the Green Energy revolution.

The Wandle Trail – 10 miles of riverside path.

This will be held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2013 between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm.

The venue is the KNK Stadium Sports Centre, Bishopsford Road, Morden, SM4 6BS. The venue is 5 minutes' walk from Mitcham Tramlink Station and free parking is available.

If you wish to attend RSVP to [bsjb@onetel.com](mailto:bsjb@onetel.com) by 30<sup>th</sup> March quoting 'WPRA'. There is a charge of £5.00 payable on arrival for beverages and a light lunch.

## The Wandle Valley

A new website has been created for the Wandle Valley Regional Park [www.wandlevalleypark.co.uk](http://www.wandlevalleypark.co.uk) It is reported that a fund totalling £490,000 could be obtained to look into various projects including a feasibility study into the infamous Earlsfield 'missing link'.

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In 2011, The **Cresidents** started a campaign for a lift at Wimbledon Park underground station.

So far over £10,000 has been raised, mostly from The Cresidents' normal fund raising events, and some from specific donations.

Any installation would have to be completed by London Underground.

The Cresidents have held meetings with our local councillors and MP, who contacted TfL to indicate their support. TfL officers attended a meeting at the station with The Cresidents in 2012, at which the officers explained the general approval process, and some of the particular issues which they considered would need to be addressed for construction of a lift at Wimbledon Park. TfL confirmed that a lift would clearly be feasible at the station, similar to that installed at Southfields, but were equally clear that they did not expect Wimbledon Park to have funding priority for some considerable time.

TfL has estimated the costs at more than £5 million which seems extremely high. The Cresidents have been promised an example of the business case which TfL uses for such projects, including the criteria used to determine priority. We await that example in order to make an assessment of whether there is realistic prospect of making a successful case for Wimbledon Park.

The Cresidents' website [www.thecresidents.com](http://www.thecresidents.com) will be updated when more news is available.

# **Why should I support the Residents' Association?**

**There has been a Residents' Association in Wimbledon Park since 1906. It provides a forum for discussing important local issues and a platform for action.**

**Since it's inception, the Residents' Association has helped hundreds, probably thousands of local residents, irrespective of religion, race or creed who have turned to the committee for guidance and support.**

**We check the planning applications of all local buildings and have been very successful in opposing unsuitable developments. We promote planting and improvements in local parks and green areas. We work with the local police to help you to fight crime in your street by publishing the crime statistics in our newsletter.**

**We have led the initiative to redevelop Wimbledon Park Hall –so that once again we can have our own community centre. We have put on fairs and shows and supported numerous local campaigns, individuals and families faced with tragedy.**

**The Residents' Association has given the Wimbledon Park Community a solid and respected voice when dealing with Merton Council. An individual can achieve only so much, but as a team we can and do achieve so much more.**

**This area is growing and improving all the time. Your Residents' Association is more active than ever and we are happy to put in time and effort on your behalf. But we cannot function without funds. We did extremely well financially from the Edwardian Fairs we have run over the last 3 years but that money has been put aside for the running of the new Park Hall – delayed yet again due to the current Global Recession.**

**We need you to support your local Residents' Association ideally for 3 years, which is only £12. Twelve pounds for a 3 year period will help us pay for printing and stationary to publish this newsletter, computer & IT software to run the website, materials and equipment to organise the next fair and keep the flowerboxes blooming in Arthur Road.**

**Please take a moment to fill in the very brief form opposite.**

**We regret that unless an email address is supplied, we are unable to acknowledge receipt.**

**If you are already a member but are not sure of your current status, email to [wpsecretary@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:wpsecretary@blueyonder.co.uk) and we will check for you.**

**Thanks in advance for your support. It is hugely appreciated.**

**DeNica Fairman**



# To Join the Wimbledon Park Residents' Association

Please complete this form and return it to us with your payment:

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

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3 Years.....£12.00

Donation.....£ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Options:

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**Wimbledon Park Residents' Association**

Post to: WPRA, 3 Strathmore Rd, SW19 8DB

By Cash

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.

**Email\*\*\* If you would like to be included on an e-mail list for crime alerts, WPRA updates and information on other important local issues Please tick here**

☐

**Please date...../...../.....**

# Merton Residents Healthcare Forum (MRHF)

## Who are we? What is our purpose?

We are a group of interested and concerned residents. We got together in 2012 to try to understand the complex changes in the local NHS structure brought about by the Health and Social Care Act, 2012. Most of us were largely unaware of the new bodies being introduced and what they did. For example, What is the CCG? And what about PPGs?

To this end, we have set about organising public meetings where key topics are introduced by guest speakers and plenty of time is allowed for us as residents to ask questions.

The Council is obliged to consult local communities in order to identify key priorities. However, it is clear that most of us are not aware of our right to be consulted; certainly do not have sufficient information to be able to make sound judgements and do not, as a consequence, participate.

MRHF intends to change that. We aim to strengthen local democratic processes.

Some of the key developments in health and social care facing us are:

- **The establishment of Merton's Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), April 2013.** Very important body replacing the Primary Care Trust (PCT)
- **The new review of healthcare delivery by the Better Services Better Value team (BSBV).** Will there be significant changes?
- **St. George's application for Foundation Trust status;** what does membership mean?
- **The introduction of Patient Participation Groups (PPG's) –** what is PP? Is it important to be involved?
- **The arrival of 'Healthwatch', April 2013;** is it the new 'healthcare consumer champion'?

So far we have organised the following meetings which have been very well attended:

- **October 2012** initial overview of developments in local healthcare
- **January 2013** BSBV'S Rationale for changes to Healthcare provision in Merton: Seminars led by Dr Mike Bailey, Co-Director, BSBV Programme
- **Feb 2013** Patient Participation; An exploration of what it means.
- **Second seminar on BSBV now fixed for April 24th. Look out for details.**

MRHF aims to be a Merton-wide organisation and welcomes the input of ideas from individuals and Residents Associations across the borough.

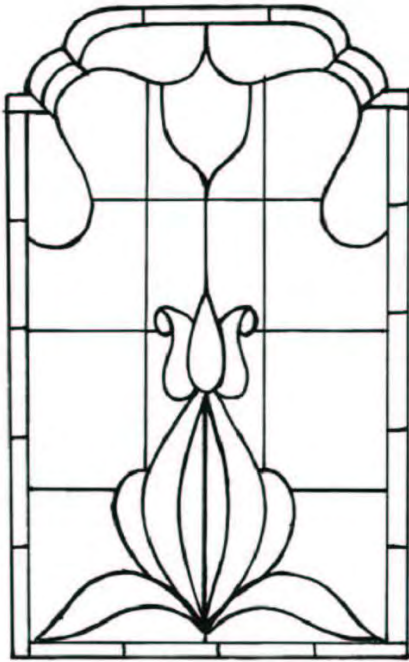
We are organising a variety of future meetings, including some in association with St George's Hospital.

If you are interested in joining us, and would like to know more about what's in the pipeline, please do get in touch.

**Email: [mrhf2012@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mrhf2012@hotmail.co.uk)**

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## Who Loves Wimbledon?

There is a lot of talk in the national media at the moment about the death of the High Street. We are working hard to minimise this impact. I would like to introduce you to Love Wimbledon!

Funded by the businesses, Love Wimbledon started last April to maximise the potential for the town centre. We have a very wide remit from hosting a wide range of exciting events, to helping the businesses with issues such as recycling and waste through to jet-washing the pavements to clean up the gum and grime. We work closely in partnership with the Council on many issues to bring added value to their statutory services and are developing great working relationships with the community and cultural organisations to support and promote their activity.

We have some very exciting plans to celebrate the Tennis Championships in the town centre this year for visitors and residents alike, and are also developing a bigger and better Christmas campaign than has been seen before in Wimbledon. Did anyone see the Chinese lion dancing through the streets for Chinese New Year? We have also recently hosted Fun in Fitness events to encourage passers-by with their new year's resolutions and are planning a wide range of other events this year.

Our website, [www.lovewimbledon.org](http://www.lovewimbledon.org), has all the latest details of what is happening in the town centre and includes a full business directory and our twitter feed. If you have a smart phone you can also download our free app that has everything Wimbledon including discounts and special offers. Alternatively you can 'Like' us on Facebook or if you prefer face to face communication you can visit our town centre information point in Centre Court Shopping Centre to pick up the latest local leaflets and magazines etc.

Wimbledon has a huge amount to offer and I would urge you to support your local town centre. With 2 new restaurants and 2 new shops just opened in February and lots more to come in the next few weeks.

Wimbledon remains a vibrant and exciting town, defying the national decline and we are here to help you to Love Wimbledon.

**Helen Clark Bell**  
Manager of Love Wimbledon and  
Wimbledon Park resident







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## **An Easter Message from Christ the King Church**

**I am grateful to Iain for inviting me to send a message to the people of Wimbledon Park for Easter. I hope you do not mind if my message attempts to refresh in basic terms an appreciation of what Easter means to people of Christian faith.**

**In the Christian celebration of Easter it is essential to appreciate the life, teaching, suffering, death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus was a real man; he lived and interacted with people. He preached, healed, forgave, loved and challenged people. He did all of this in the name of the one whom he called 'Father'. Even though he was actively involved in the religious life of his time he refused to be bound by the conventions and strict religious observances of the day. He insisted that love was the greatest virtue of all.**

**Eventually he was arrested, tried under false charges, mocked, scourged and crucified. Even his followers deserted him in his time of trial and suffering. Some of his last words from the cross to his persecutors were 'Father forgive them, they do not know what they are doing'.**

**His resurrection – not resuscitation – from the dead validated everything he stood for and proclaimed the power, mercy, justice and love of God at work in Him. His baffled and confused followers were completely overwhelmed. For forty days they came to experience his risen presence in a new way and in many different situations. He had opened their eyes to a new understanding of God, of life and of themselves. After their initial hesitation, bewilderment and fears they proceeded to proclaim his resurrection and teachings to all - in spite of being persecuted and suffering themselves.**

**This is still what Christians continue to proclaim and celebrate at Easter – his triumph over evil, death and all that afflicts humanity. He suffered for all and especially for those who are alienated, rejected and disheartened in life. He totally identified himself with suffering humanity and affirmed God his father's love for every human being.**

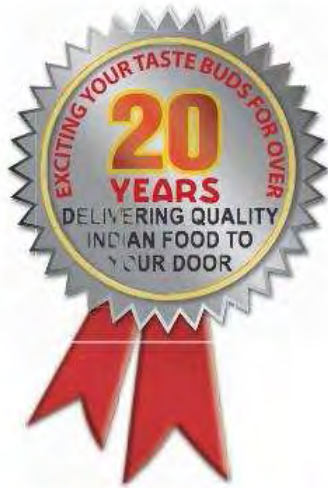
**All that is necessary to be able to rejoice at Easter is to be truly human.  
I wish you all a very blessed and happy Easter.**

**Fr. John**

**Christ the King Church**



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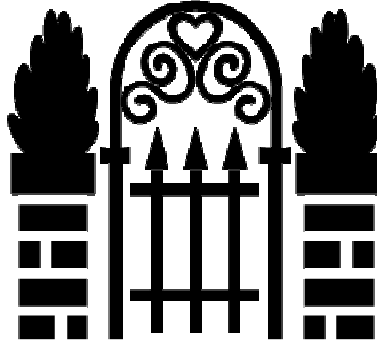
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***Wimbledon Park Residents' Association***

***Front Garden Awards***

***2013***

***This is to announce our annual celebration of attractive front gardens in Wimbledon Park. A team of local residents will be looking at all gardens visible from the street to nominate their favourites. From these, a panel of judges will choose the best in the following categories:***

***Best Container Garden***

***Best Summer Interest Garden***

***Best All-year Interest Garden***

***Best Street***

***Judging will take place on the following dates:***

***Preliminary round: 4 – 10 July***

***Final selections: Sunday 14 July***

***We will inform all those whose gardens are selected for the final judging, and results will be posted to them within a few days.***

***Presentation of the awards will take place at the WPRA AGM in the autumn.***

***We are always looking for new people to get involved with the judging, so if you are interested and are willing to spare a few hours of your time, please get in touch.***

***Contact Jill Farmer***

***Tel: 020 8947 6572; email: [jill.y.farmer@gmail.com](mailto:jill.y.farmer@gmail.com)***



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## JOHN EVELYN – STILL AN INSPIRATION TODAY



John Evelyn

For nearly 80 years after its creation, today's Wimbledon Society took its name from a man who was never really associated with Wimbledon at all, although he paid a few visits. Known first as the John Evelyn Club and then from 1949-82, the John Evelyn Society, this was actually a tribute to diarist and nature lover John Evelyn (1620-1706), who died 307 years ago this week on 27 February 1706 and was buried near his home in Wotton, Surrey.

Just before local resident Richardson Evans founded the Wimbledon Society in 1903 as a focus for those keen to preserve the area's natural beauty and cultural heritage, he sent a long letter to 300 of his neighbours proposing the establishment of a John Evelyn Club.

He wrote: "I know of no other character in English history who showed so delicate a love of nature, such cultivated taste in art and such genial familiarity with the ways of men."

At the time, Evans expected the Wimbledon club to be the first of a network of similar bodies elsewhere, all using the John Evelyn name to help maintain their own areas' attractions. It never happened, which was essentially why the name was eventually dropped in 1982.

Although Evelyn never lived in Wimbledon, he visited what was then a small Surrey village four times. His first trip on 17 February 1662 was as the guest of the Earl of Bristol who had recently bought the Wimbledon Manor House from Queen Henrietta Maria, widow of King Charles I. In his diary Evelyn says this visit was to help modernize the garden. He wrote: "It is a delicious place for Prospect and the thicketts but the soile cold and weeping clay." Not very promising perhaps.

He didn't return for another 13 years, calling one day again in August 1675. The following July he seems only to have met the Earl's wife, Countess Anne, on his third visit and by the time he returned for the last time in February 1678 the Earl of Bristol had died and his widow had sold the Wimbledon Manor House to the Earl

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of Danby, Lord Treasurer. This time, Evelyn was one of a party including the new owner's daughters and they all surveyed the gardens and alterations to the house before leaving late at night. In January 1679 Evelyn was a guest of Bristol's widow once again but this time at her new home in Chelsea. He seems never to have returned to Wimbledon.

He nevertheless represented many of the same ideals as today's Society. Despite being the second son of a gunpowder manufacturer, he dedicated his life to intellectual pursuits, writing books on subjects ranging from theology, numismatics and politics, to horticulture, architecture and vegetarianism. He also mixed in impressive circles and included the architect Sir Christopher Wren, scientist Robert Boyle and fellow diarist Samuel Pepys among his friends.

A founder of the Royal Society in 1660, Evelyn's book on the growing problem of air pollution in London was published soon afterwards and in 1664 was followed by a highly influential treatise on forest trees and their propagation. Entitled *Sylva* with a sub-heading the *Kalendarium Hortense Or Gard'ners Almanac*, this was a treasure trove of advice to landowners on planting trees to provide timber for England's rapidly growing Navy. Later editions appeared in 1670 and 1679, with the fourth published in 1706 just after his death. The Museum of Wimbledon at 22 Ridgway has a bound copy left by Richardson Evans himself.

Evelyn's love of trees and the natural environment was always evident. His family home, Wotton House in Dorking, now a hotel and conference centre, still stands in the Italianate garden he designed himself on returning from ten years travelling in continental Europe. But he only inherited that house from his brother late in life and for many years he had lived with his family at Sayes Court, a property near Deptford (then in Kent) where he transformed the gardens.

There too he happened to become the landlord of the man later considered England's finest wood carver, Grinling Gibbons (1648-1721). In the 1670s, Gibbons rented a cottage in the grounds of Sayes Court and Evelyn introduced him to Sir Christopher Wren who in turn introduced him to King Charles II. Gibbons was

# SYLVA, Or A DISCOURSE OF FOREST-TREES, AND THE Propagation of Timber

In His MAJESTIES Dominions.

By J. E. Esq;

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To which is annexed

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The Making and several ways of Ordering it.

Published by express Order of the ROYAL SOCIETY.

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Directing what he is to do Monthly throughout the Year.

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Ingeniis, tantis assue reclusis fauoris.* Virg.



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Evelyn's famous discourse on forest trees.



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then commissioned to produce work still found today at Windsor Castle.

As a conservationist centuries before the word was known, John Evelyn was horrified to see what vandalism could mean when brought too close to home. In 1698 King William III borrowed Sayes Court from him as a temporary location to host Russian Tsar Peter the Great and his court, who were visiting London to learn about shipbuilding at the nearby Deptford shipyard. The King had it specially furnished but hosting Peter was far from great. For three months the Russian proceeded to wreck both house and grounds, painfully destroying a much treasured holly hedge by riding through it on a wheelbarrow. Evelyn got £150 in compensation from the Treasury after Sir Christopher Wren, then the King's Surveyor, and his gardener, Mr London, examined the destruction.

But it was nature rather than a malign visitor that caused the most damage at Evelyn's final home at Wotton. In his last edition of *Sylva*, he mentions that more than 1000 trees had been destroyed by the great storm of 1703 within sight of the house. (See Heritage story 30 November 2012).

=====

This story about John Evelyn is one of a weekly series written by Tony Matthews of the Wimbledon Society for the Wimbledon Guardian Heritage Page. If you would like to read more about Wimbledon's Heritage go to:

[www.wimbledonguardian.co.uk/heritage](http://www.wimbledonguardian.co.uk/heritage).

## **The Museum of Wimbledon**

Wimbledon is fortunate in having had a number of influential residents throughout its history who were determined to understand and conserve its rich heritage. At the turn of the nineteenth century the most notable of these was Richardson Evans who created The John Evelyn Club in 1903 with that express aim, naming it in honour of the seventeenth century diarist and "patron saint" of conservation. His vast collection of items relating to Wimbledon eventually overran his house so in 1916 a formal museum was established on the top floor of the Village Hall. This remains the heart of the museum today. Since then both institutions have undergone several name changes but remain two vibrant elements of local life The Wimbledon Society and the Museum of Wimbledon.

The museum is staffed entirely by volunteers and receives no external funding - relying on donations from visitors who are fascinated by the varied collections on view and bookshop sales. It is open every weekend afternoon from 2:30pm to 5pm and also during special events. Here can be put on view some but by no means all, of the items from our comprehensive Collections. Additionally the Museum offers a variety of community services such as hosting school visits, taking the museum out to less mobile groups and providing expert speakers.

The Museum of Wimbledon is located in Wimbledon village at 22 Ridgway, which is the corner of Ridgway and Lingfield Road. It is open from 2.30pm to 5.00pm every weekend and is entirely run by volunteers. Make a point of visiting your Museum!

[www.wimbledonmuseum.org.uk](http://www.wimbledonmuseum.org.uk)

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# **The Wimbledon Village Hall Gallery**



**The Gallery is owned by the Wimbledon Village Hall Trust and is located in the Trust building in Wimbledon village on the corner of the Ridgway and Lingfield Road.**

**The Trust, which is a registered charity, is keen to encourage both professional and amateur artists and schools to hire the gallery for exhibitions.**

**The gallery is at first floor level and accessed by stairs from the entrance in Lingfield Road.**

**Hiring the gallery is very simple and lettings run weekly from Tuesday to Monday and the space is available both during the day and in the evening**

**Displays will normally be set up on Tuesday giving the rest of the week and the weekend, allowing Monday to take down and clear the gallery. The gallery can be let for periods longer than a week if desired.**

**Hire Charges are: £70 per week for artists and £50 per week for schools.**

**No commission is charged on any works sold in the gallery.**

**Further information is available on the website:**

**[www.wimbledonvht.org.uk](http://www.wimbledonvht.org.uk)**

**Or contact the Gallery Manager, Alice Godwin.**

**Email: [alicegodwin@wimbledonvht.org.uk](mailto:alicegodwin@wimbledonvht.org.uk)**



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## **Wimbledon Park Safer Neighbourhoods team**

The Wimbledon Park Safer Neighbourhoods team is your dedicated police team. We focus on local issues in partnership with other agencies to deal with our priorities. The team currently has priorities of burglary, vehicle crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB). These are set after consultation with the Wimbledon Park ward panel. We meet four times each year and discuss crime and other local matters.

### **Contacting police - new non-emergency number 101**

It has never been easier to report a crime or make the police aware of any suspicious activity in your local neighbourhood. As well as the “999” number, which should always be used if you require an immediate police response, you can contact us on “101”. Generally speaking, if it’s happening now telephone “999” and if it’s happened and there is no need for an immediate police response then use the “101” number. Whichever number you use your call will be prioritised and you will be given some indication as to how and when the police will respond. Alternatively, you can contact the Wimbledon Park Safer Neighbourhood Team on 0208 721 2452 or email us at [wimbledon-park.snt@met.police.uk](mailto:wimbledon-park.snt@met.police.uk). Please note that your SNT is not available 24 hours a day 7 days a week. You can contact Wimbledon Police Station directly on 0208 947 1212. In the case of an emergency always call 999.

### **Ward drop-in surgeries**

The team is still required to make dates and times available for residents to come and see us. These are called ward surgeries. The dates and times are advertised on the team webpage which can be accessed via the Metropolitan Police official website then following the links to the neighbourhood teams. Select Merton, then Wimbledon Park. Of course we are always contactable when we are on duty and find that most people will either phone or e-mail us if they need advice or assistance.

### **Alleygate Schemes**

Burglars and shed thieves will often look to gain entry to a property or garden at the rear where they will feel they are less likely to be seen by neighbours or passers-by. Alleys provide excellent cover and easy access to and from the rear of a property. Closing off these alleys reduces the risk of burglary. An “Alleygate Scheme” may provide protection from unwanted visitors by gating off the alley access points. Access to the alleys can only be gained by keys issued to all those within the particular scheme. The London Borough of Merton may provide up to 50% of the cost of installation with the balance being funded by those residents within the scheme. The more residents opting in means the cost will be reduced. The support of most, if not all of the residents is required before any work can begin. If you are interested please contact the Wimbledon Park SNT on 0208 721 2452 or [wimbledonpark.snt@met.police.uk](mailto:wimbledonpark.snt@met.police.uk). One of the team will meet with you and consider if you would benefit from the scheme.

# **Durnsford Recreation Ground/ Wimbledon Park Primary**

## **Recreation Ground Maintenance**

Work commenced in late February with completing the cutting back of the tops of the conifers on the northern boundary. The cuttings were shredded on the spot and then spread directly over the year-old fruit and nut hedge to discourage weeds to grow. Other hedging on the northern boundary was also cut back.

The roses and shrubs on the west boundary border have been pruned.

Our thanks must go to the staff of Wimbledon Park who undertook this work.

The planting of the fruit and nut hedge was a successful project and, because of the wet summer, losses were minimal and most of the plants are beginning to sprout now despite the cold weather.

We do believe that the mulberry tree is sprouting buds, but to what extend is yet to be seen.....

## **Wimbledon Park Primary Expansion Project**

Building work on the Wimbledon Park Primary School extension continues.

The MUGA – (Multi Use Games Area) – is already in use by the school on a regular basis. The controlling gates which restrict access to the site by the public during school hours will soon be in operation, electronically controlled from within the school. Temporary white lines marking out a 5-a-side football pitch will be painted soon. The laying of the final surface is very much weather dependent but the contractors are looking for completion by April 2013.

The 'link road' between the MUGA and the builder's compound will be repaired. Initially, temporary wood fencing approx. 3 feet high will replace the existing metal fencing. This wood fencing will be placed 1 meter from the edge of the existing 'link road'. The area will be cleared of waste, rotovated and seeded. The area will not be open to the general public until approx. July/August 2013 when the grass has been cut a couple of times.

The contractors are aiming to complete the building work of the school extension by September 2013. The compound, currently used for the storage of building materials and equipment, will be cleared and the new play equipment fitted and available for use by November 2013. Similarly to the MUGA, this area will have controlling gates which restrict access to the site by the general public during school hours, electronically controlled from within the school.

Ivan Scott

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**on the fourth Thursday 7.30-9pm.** Free to attend, all welcome.

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**Next Evening Talk, Thursday 11th April:**

**Helen Ricketts, Physiotherapist from St. George's Hospital Oncology Ward**

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**wcfg@live.co.uk or 07948 767 936**

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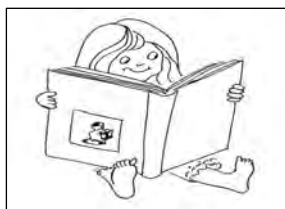
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<b>Building Work</b>	<b>Bernie</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Cancer advice</b>	<b>Wimbledon Cancer friendship</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Carpenter</b>	<b>Daniel Smith</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Central Heating</b>	<b>ABC Central Heating Services</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Computer Services</b>	<b>London Computer Doctor</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Estate Agents</b>	<b>Burlington Residential</b>	<b>37</b>
	<b>Robert Holmes</b>	<b>25</b>
	<b>IMI Property Solutions</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Engineering</b>	<b>Naismith</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Garden design &amp; Build</b>	<b>K D Raynsford</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Gifts and Cards</b>	<b>Chalk</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Home Care</b>	<b>Home Instead</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Indian Food takeaway</b>	<b>K2</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Locksmiths</b>	<b>Oakley Locksmiths Ltd</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Painting &amp; Decoration</b>	<b>Nigel Plumbe</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Piano</b>	<b>Marion Blech</b>	<b>17</b>
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	<b>Little Learners (in the Park)</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Solicitors</b>	<b>McGlennons</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Stain Glass &amp; Leaded lights</b>	<b>Coriander</b>	<b>23</b>
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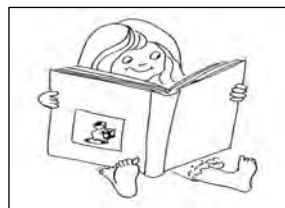
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