



Summer/Autumn 2013



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Summer/Autumn edition 2013
Contents

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Chairman's Report | 4 & 5 |
| Wimbledon Park Hall (Plan and picture) | 6 & 7 |
| Wimbledon Park Hall (Operation of Café) | 8 |
| AGM Notice | 9 |
| Latest news from the Friends of Wimbledon Park | 10, 11 |
| Crime Figures | 14 & 16 |
| Wandle Valley Forum | 18,19 |
| Join The WPRA | 20 & 21 |
| Kenilworth Green | 22 |
| Irene Clarkson | 24 & 26 |
| Front Garden Awards (results) | 28 & 33 |
| Merton Residents' Healthcare Forum—update | 30,31 |
| Safer Neighbourhood Team | 34 |
| Durnsford Recreation Ground—progress report | 35 |
| Committee list | 36 |
| Advertisers Index | 38 |

All advertising enquiries to:
Kathy Blackburn on 020 8946 3957
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Editorial help needed. Contact Iain Simpson on 020 8947 1301
email: iainsimpson@imi-consulting.com

Chairman's Report

Wimbledon Park Hall

According to the latest information, the target date for completion of our new hall is now the end of November rather than September, as previously advised in our last newsletter. Certain internal design complications have caused the delay.

Otherwise, the fitting out specifications for the hall and kitchen for which the Council is responsible continue to progress smoothly under the guidance of David Watkins, a local resident and architect, who has favoured us with an enormous amount of advice and time. We are generally very impressed with the response from both the contractors and the very efficient Project manager for the Council.

We have also commenced discussions with the Council, through our legal advisers, on the matter of the lease. We do not anticipate any major problems in that regard.

We have had a number of inquiries for hiring the hall and, as mentioned in our last newsletter, are not yet in a position to make any firm commitments. However the revised target date of end of November for completion of the building does now appear to be a date about which we can be a little more certain.

On page 8 we have used the space to advertise for interest in running the new café. We are keen to have a café operation that reflects a community ethos and will become a key meeting point for local residents and others using the Hall facility. If you have any ideas about who might be a good operator, please get in touch.

Car park Extension in Wimbledon Park

Just in the last few days it has been confirmed that this matter will be heard at the next planning applications meeting on Thursday 5th September.

As previously reported, there has been significant objection to this application for a number of reasons. In fact, according to the Council, there have been 109 objections registered. This application was first made in June 2012. Since then, in the face of such strong objections, the Council has been bolstering its case by two amendments to the original application, and obviously only now feels the case strong enough to put forward. This in itself is significant.

What is at stake is the preservation of open space in a Grade 11* listed park; an inheritance that we should - and most of us do - appreciate. We are honour-bound to preserve this wonderful park for future generations and not allow green space to be squandered cheaply in the name of such things as vehicle parking necessity, of which there is plenty already. Any further moves by this or any other

Council to turn the park into an amusement park and cash cow at the expense of green space should and will be firmly resisted.

Development of the Greyhound Stadium (site 37 in the Sites and Policies consultation)

The WPRA has been concerned about the proposed redevelopment of the Greyhound stadium on Plough Lane; this is one of the biggest future developments in Merton. As for all such sites in the borough, Merton Council is obliged to make proposals for the uses of this site within the context of its Local Development Framework documents. One might expect that Merton Council would make proposals based on its own "Core Planning Strategy 2010" document which is in turn based on the "National Planning Policy Framework". Unfortunately, in our opinion, this is not the case and we have submitted, on behalf of the Association, a number of representations to Merton Council explaining what we believe are appropriate developments suitable for this site.

Essentially Merton Council's proposal for this site is "Intensification of sporting activity with supporting enabling development". The owners of the ground intend to build a 10,000-15,000 seated football stadium for AFC Wimbledon with the enabling development being 450-500 residential units and a substantial retail store. We think this is inconsistent with the fact that this site is on a flood plain at high risk, supermarkets are not permitted in out of town developments and the site is very poorly served by public transport.

These proposals have been put forward despite the representations that have been made to Merton Council by the Association.

We are concerned that site 37 is a very difficult site to redevelop and, if planning considerations are not followed, there is considerable scope for a development that could blight Wimbledon town centre, the shops on Arthur Road and residential areas in the vicinity of the proposed stadium. Merton's proposals will now be judged by an independent Planning inspector who we hope will agree with our considerations.

All submissions can be found on the Council website under Sites and Policies but if you would like a copy of ours, contact me and I will email you a copy.

Kenilworth Green

If you turn to page 22 you will find an article about our concerns for the use of this rather special green space.

AGM

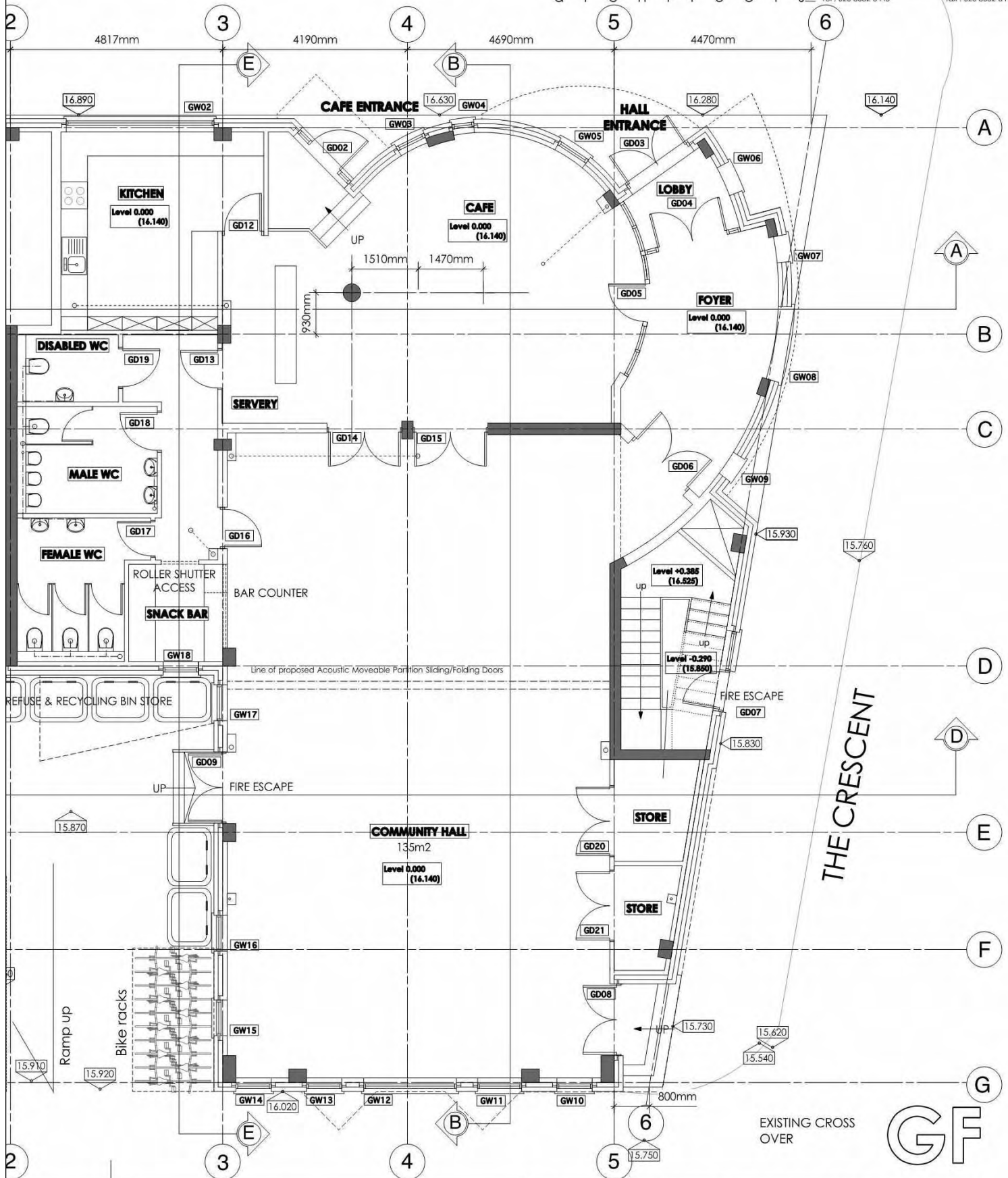
Our AGM this year is on the 24th October and the notice is on Page 9. As always refreshments will be served after the meeting— it is always a good opportunity to catch up with other members and the committee. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Iain Simpson

PLAN OF WIMBLEDON PARK HALL COMPLEX

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Wimbledon Park Hall

New Café operation

We are keen to hear from any experienced Café or Restaurant operator who might be interested in running our community café within the new community resource complex at 170 Arthur Road.

Designed to accommodate approximately 30 seated customers, it presents a wonderful opportunity to create a fully - functional café/restaurant with a community ethos.

With brand new equipment and in an excellent location, it should attract a wide range of customers.

If you are interested in knowing more, contact me at:

Email: iainsimpson@imi-consulting.com

or Mobile: 07836361782

The Siegeris School of Dance

www.siegerisdance.com07730536499info@siegerisdance.com

The Siegeris School of Dance offers a variation of ballet classes and tap/modern classes for children.

New classes will commence at Wimbledon Park Hall, Arthur Road in January 2014

The dance school run ballet classes in the Royal Academy of Dance Graded and Vocational classes and modern and tap classes with the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dance encouraging the joy of movement in children from 3 years of age.

ENROL NOW FOR JANUARY 2014

AGM Notice

Date: Thursday 24th October 2012

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

Community Safety Panel report

Election of Officers

AOB

Refreshments will be served after the meeting

Friends of Wimbledon Park

News update for members, August 2013

Council may debate car park extension in September

The permanent extension of the car park (planning application 12/P1181) looks likely to be considered by Merton councillors at a planning meeting in September, although we don't have a precise date as yet. We are currently considering how best to make FOWP's representation to the meeting.

Large groups cause disruption in the park

Concerns are growing about large groups using the park for parties during the summer months. This is leading to a range of problems including barbecues and fires causing damage to trees; large quantities of litter, especially nappies; and cars being driven onto the grass. Some groups refuse to leave the park at closing time, and on occasion the police have been called because of anti-social behaviour. A multi-pronged approach is needed to tackle these issues, probably involving police and community officer involvement, the restoration of the post at the end of the Revelstoke Road car park, an 'opening times' notice on the gates and the provision of barbecue stations with safe facilities for disposal of coals.

Wimbledon Championships 2013: a good result for residents

For some years, residents living at the top end of the Revelstoke Road cul-de-sac have suffered severe disruption due to traffic mistakenly trying to drive into the park during the Wimbledon Championships. This year, FOWP got involved and was able to make a real difference. We brought together various parties, including councillors from Merton and Wandsworth, highways officers from Wandsworth and police officers, resulting in cones being placed in the road and appropriate signage. Although there were still a few problems, residents felt disruption was much reduced.

Wildlife thrives

A common spotted orchid (*dactylorhiza fuchsia*) has been recorded in the park – an important identification. It has also been a good year for stag beetles, which have been seen in some numbers. The wildflower beds created in 2012 did bloom again this year, although not quite as spectacularly. Those in Durnsford Rec appear to have fared better.

Restoring the lake

Our plans to restore the water quality of the lake, improve wildlife habitats and improve access for all are progressing slowly but surely. Following his pledge of support last November, Cllr Stephen Alambritis has agreed to our proposal for a

feasibility study into the required works. Cabinet member Andrew Judge has also become involved. Merton Council will require the revised Conservation Management Plan (CMP) to be tendered out.

Sports round-up

Athletics stadium

The Hockey Club has made good progress in its negotiations with the Athletics Club for use of the centre of the track, although problems with field events such as javelin are still to be resolved. If they go ahead, the plans would lead to improvements in facilities for both athletes and hockey players.

Beach volleyball

The beach volleyball facility has been very busy over the summer. Silver birch trees, which were part of the agreement, will not be considered in this area yet.

Football pitches

Football has been relocated elsewhere in the borough while repairs are carried out to the area where cars parked during the Wimbledon Championships and the Olympics. Once this work is completed the football pitches can be reinstated.

Dog Control Orders suspended

Dog control orders have been suspended as Merton Council has no dog wardens for Wimbledon Park and therefore cannot enforce them.

Our park should be part of Wandle Valley Regional Park

We are continuing to pressure for Wimbledon Park to be included within the Wandle Valley Regional Park.

Café signs too dominant

During the Wimbledon Championships a large 'café open' sign was erected next to the bowling green. There have been numerous comments that this is too dominant and should be taken down or reduced in height.

FOWP broadens its reach

Nigel Martin and Paul Bishop from St Cecilia's School have joined our executive committee, helping to widen FOWP's reach still further. Membership has now reached 104, of which seven are corporate memberships. We welcome new members – please visit www.friendsofwimbledonpark.org.uk for details of how to join.

Or fill in the application form on the next page.

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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| Allegation | Method | Address | Date from | Time from | Date to | Time to |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------------|------------|-----------|------------|---------|
| Burglary in a Dwelling. | Victim left property secure at approx 0800 hours. On returning found that unknown suspect had gained entry through forced window at the rear of the property. Untidy search and property stolen. | MELROSE AVENUE | 02/07/2013 | 800 | 02/07/2013 | 1800 |
| Burglary in a Dwelling. | Victim was asleep upstairs and left the ground floor small window open. It appears that entry was gained via the suspect reaching through the window and opening the larger window. Laptop was stolen. | MELROSE AVENUE | 27/07/2013 | 30 | 27/07/2013 | 830 |
| Crim Dam to M/Veh - under £500 | Victim left vehicle parked up over night, on returning the following morning found that unknown suspect had scratched paint work. | VINEYARD HILL ROAD | 09/07/2013 | 2230 | 10/07/2013 | 1000 |
| Interference with Motor Vehicles | Suspect seen riding bike trying car door handles, victim saw the suspect open his car boot victim knocked on the window and Suspect cycled off. No property taken. | FARQUHAR ROAD | 30/07/2013 | 2000 | 30/07/2013 | 2007 |
| Theft from Motor Vehicles | Victim parked his vehicle outside his home address in the street. Overnight persons unknown have snapped off the rear windscreen wiper causing damage. | KENILWORTH AVENUE | 05/07/2013 | 1500 | 06/07/2013 | 1500 |
| Theft from Motor Vehicles | Vehicle left locked and secure in Wickes carpark, suspects have broken into vehicle via the rear doors and stole a quantity of power tools. | PLOUGH LANE | 10/07/2013 | 1300 | 10/07/2013 | 1400 |
| Theft from Motor Vehicles | By suspect unknown, stealing the wing mirror and damaging one of the windscreen wipers. | KENILWORTH AVENUE | 05/07/2013 | 1800 | 06/07/2013 | 800 |
| Theft from Motor Vehicles | Total of £ 30.00 worth of petrol was stolen from unattended 2 motorbikes belong to the victim. It appeared that petrol tubes were taken out and petrol was sucked out of them. | GAP ROAD | 11/07/2013 | 1530 | 11/07/2013 | 1538 |
| Theft from Motor Vehicles | By persons unknown taking a tax disk from a scooter | GAP ROAD | 15/07/2013 | 800 | 16/07/2013 | 800 |
| Theft from Motor Vehicles | Offender/s went to 3 delivery vans within depot car park and stole diesel from tank of vehicle 1 and Operators Licences from vehicles 2 and 3. | WEIR ROAD | 15/07/2013 | 1700 | 16/07/2013 | 530 |
| Theft from Motor Vehicles | Theft from vehicle by persons who have gained entry by means unknown, as no damage to any of the locks or windows. Also untidy search carried out and items taken. | HASLEMERE AVENUE | 18/07/2013 | 1730 | 19/07/2013 | 700 |
| Theft from Motor Vehicles | by suspect gaining entry to the car and taking electrical times from glove box | DURNSFORD ROAD | 13/07/2013 | 1200 | 20/07/2013 | 0 |
| Theft from Motor Vehicles | By unknown suspect who stole the victims property from his vehicle and then having done so made off in an unknown direction. | POPLAR ROAD | 19/07/2013 | 1800 | 19/07/2013 | 2000 |

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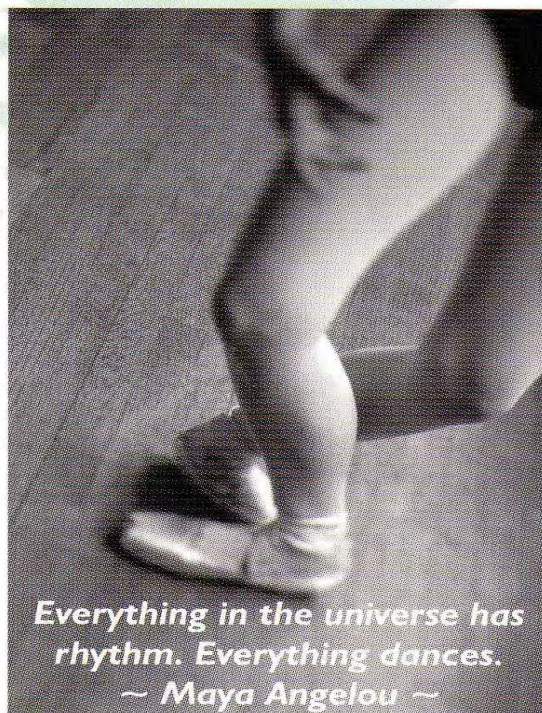


| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------|------------|------|------------|------|
| Theft from Motor Vehicles | By person(s) unknown removing property from victims motor vehicle without permission and then making off to avoid detection | MELROSE AVENUE | 30/07/2013 | 1650 | 30/07/2013 | 1705 |
| Theft Not Classified Elsewhere | victim saw his potted conifers were outside the front of his house in the evening of 29th June. the following day victim found both conifers and pots had been stolen. | KENILWORTH AVENUE | 29/06/2013 | 1800 | 30/06/2013 | 1000 |
| Theft Not Classified Elsewhere | By person/s unknown who used device to cause ATM to keep victim's card so that they could take it from the machine when he left the scene. | DURNFORD ROAD | 20/07/2013 | 233 | | |
| Theft of Motor Vehicle | . | KINGSLEY ROAD | 02/07/2013 | 1100 | 02/07/2013 | 1450 |
| Theft of Motor Vehicle | after loading up vehicle with cash & carry goods victim 1 left keys in vehicle whilst putting trolley away. Suspects pulled up in vehicle and one of the males drove away in the vehicle | ENDEAVOUR WAY | 22/07/2013 | 1317 | | |
| Theft of Pedal Cycles | By suspect unknown removing victims pedal cycle from venue, by means unknown and making off in unknown direction undetected. | CROMWELL ROAD | 06/07/2013 | 1700 | 07/07/2013 | 100 |
| Theft of Pedal Cycles | By suspect prizing the lock of a push bike and riding away. | ENDEAVOUR WAY | 10/07/2013 | 1517 | | |
| Theft of Pedal Cycles | Victim secured her bicycle outside her place to a cycle rack. Suspect used bolt croppers and stole cycle | ENDEAVOUR WAY | 27/06/2013 | 1650 | | |
| Unauthorised Taking Motor Vehicle | By suspect hiring vehicle for a two day period, but failing to return vehicle at end of agreement term. | PLOUGH LANE | 07/06/2013 | 800 | | |



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Principal Carmela Guida



Wandle Valley Forum

Wandle Valley Regional Park

The Wandle Weekends

The Wandle Weekends were held on the 1st and 2nd and the 8th and 9th June. Various activities were held including walks along the length of the Wandle Trail, a total of 11.4 miles. The starts were Wandsworth Town Railway Station and Wandle Park Tram Stop and the two groups met at Morden Hall Park where we stopped for lunch. Me, my wife, and my dog met the Wandsworth group at Earlsfield at 10.45 (at that point the problem of the 'Earlsfield Missing Link' was raised – repeatedly!). After various stops the walk finished at Waddon Ponds at 5.00 p.m. The Jack Russell was happy to carry on much further!! The walks were arranged by Hammersmith, Fulham & Wandsworth Group of the Ramblers' Association. They can be contacted on <http://www.hfwrblers.org.uk>

Something's Up at the Forum!

The Wandle Valley Forum (of which WPRA is a member) supported the launch event of the Wandle Valley Regional Park on June 19th (how Green is Our Valley) at the Tooting & Mitcham football stadium in Mitcham. This gave a platform for the Regional Park CEO to announce the plans for the park's development programme and the award of Heritage Lottery Funding Bid wins of £2.4m for a number of riverside improvements and initiatives. Also announced was the funding of improvements to the Wandle Trail which included a properly funded study of the complex Earlsfield Missing Link, close to the heart of both the WPRA and neighbouring Wandsworth Society.

The Forum was keen to increase awareness of the remarkable 'star features' the park embraced, including: historic Merton Priory where our parliament was conceived and the Statutes of Merton were formulated from the Magna Carta. Its foundations are to be enhanced with a major new museum at Merton Abbey Mills where they currently lie under Merantun Way.

The conference delegates, local authorities, community groups and major environmental institutions also allowed the Wandle Valley Forum itself to demonstrate its role as a platform and supporting voice for local community groups. The Forum's executive committee, which includes two WPRA members

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(DeNica Fairman and Ivan Scott), helped plan, prepare and manage the event which, feedback suggests, was a success.

The Wandle Valley Forum is extremely grateful to the WPRA for their crucial support for the event and as part of the Forum.

Bruce St. Julian-Bown

Chair Wandle Valley Forum & Wandsworth Society Executive

Wimbledon Park

Efforts to include Wimbledon Park within the Regional Park will continue to be made by including the Friends of Wimbledon Park as a group in the Wandle Forum. The Wimbledon Park Residents' Association is already represented.

Ivan Scott

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 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 _____

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_____ **Post Code** _____

Email*** _____

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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.

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...../...../.....

Kenilworth Green (Opposite the bottom of Kenilworth Avenue)

In co-operation with the Council, we have been taking an active interest in Kenilworth Green for many years. A great deal of personal effort from committee members and others has gone into planting and cleaning up to keep it looking tidy and appreciated. Unfortunately last year a building project at the edge of the green destroyed all the planting along the left hand edge and part of the grass area. We intend to do some replacement planting this Autumn.

Many of you will know that the green was included in the Council Sites and Policies consultation document, first published in 2011, as a potential site for development. The Association, many individual members and local residents wrote in response to the consultation to protest that this rare little green space which is much appreciated by local residents should not be allowed to be destroyed for development purposes. Fortunately we won the battle and it has now been declared a protected open space. Since then we have been in discussions with the Highways department and they have carried out extensive tree pruning to allow in more light. This has been a great improvement.

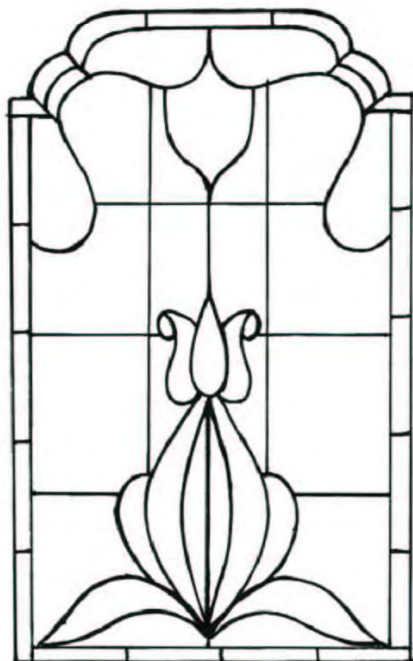
However this summer we have noticed a marked deterioration in the general condition of the area due to a lot individuals making use of the area and bench seat, particularly at night time, leaving a great many bottles, cans, cigarette ends etc. just lying around all over the area around the bench. Also the single bin was being filled very fast as well. The Council has done an excellent job of keeping up with this with the added help of some local residents. At our request the Council have provided an extra bin which has helped a great deal. However can I make a plea to those who regularly use the green and walk their dogs etc to be alert to anyone leaving their rubbish on the ground or letting their dogs foul the area without removing it as they should.

More recently I had cause to alert the Council to graffiti all over the green painted substation on the green and also some fly tipping on the pavement very close to the green. Both problems were dealt with within two days. I was not only very grateful but also very impressed. As a result I wrote to the Council to thank those involved. As you know the Council won the 2013 Best Achieving Council Award. Quite what criteria is used to determine this award I would not know. But I am of the opinion that when they do perform well we should encourage them to continue to do so. We are quick enough to criticise them when they do not.

Iain Simpson

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IRENE CLARKSON has lived at the same house in Home Park Road for 87 years. Now age 92, she moved into what was her aunt's home at the age of five after being brought to England from Queensland, Australia, when her parents split up.

I was born 27 April 1921 in Queensland. My mother brought me back by ship to Whitby to live with my grandmother but after she died I came to live in Wimbledon Park with my single aunt. She had paying guests and we would all have meals together.



I went to Wimbledon High School for ten years, starting at the kindergarten, going straight up the school and leaving in the fifth form after exams. I loved it. There were a lot of only children around then just after the First World War and I had plenty of friends. None of the teachers were ever married.

We played hockey, tennis and netball. The playing field was the original Centre Court [in Worple Road] so we probably had the best drained hockey field in the south of England. We were also taken to the public swimming baths [at Latimer Road].

The other end of Home Park Road now has houses which were all built in my lifetime - all the ones facing the golf course. Before then the area was Banky Fields. Afterwards one house was called Banky Fields and it was my pet house as a child because it had blue tiles and stood back with a long sloping lawn. Whoever bought it pulled it down and built something near the fence line. It broke my heart.

When I was a child the land between the houses opposite my aunt's had a triangular garden. Behind a wall they had an orchard, so in the spring it was always apple blossom across there.

People who lived in those big houses had garden parties with a few stalls and we children played *The Mad Hatter's Tea Party* in a long drawing room with French windows on to the garden. We did the play at one end, using the door from the hall to come in, and the audience came in from the garden to watch. Afterwards we went off to loud applause. An old lady came to talk to us and pretended to eat the jam tarts. We all giggled politely as well brought up children do. Years afterwards



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the girl who played Alice told me we had met the real Alice in Wonderland - Alice Liddell. The family knew her as Mrs Alice Hargreaves.

I was very jealous of the White Rabbit who lived opposite the house, which was in Arthur Road, just before you get to the end of Leopold Road. In those days there was a paddock with a pony.

When I was young everything was horses. All the milk carts were pulled by horses and there would be more than one company. The Anglo-American Laundry had a big van with crossed flags on the side, the Union Jack and the Old Glory, the American flag. They had a pair of horses, a grey and a brown. I thought the white horse was the Anglo and the brown one the American. I remember the van standing outside our house.

I remember my friend Jack [the trace horse]. I used to walk to school along Woodside and the horse was almost opposite the kindergarten. The owner had that horse and its brasses shining as if it was going in a showroom. I was very fond of it and would be allowed to stroke it.

Where cars now park outside St Mary's Church there used to be a hayfield. When the hay was ready we had a hay party with lemonade and buns. We weren't as sophisticated as children now. We had a lovely time once a year.

During the war there were members of the Polish Army staying in Wimbledon Park and we had one of them with us as a paying guest. Most were middle aged men and all in uniform. They used to go up to town.

The railway stations were all staffed then. I remember hearing one of the station men saying: 'That's Churchill's train.' It was like a royal train and it was being sent down to the coast to meet [General] De Gaulle. You could see into it. It had an office on board, a sitting room and officers walking up and down. The American troop trains were always coming too. My aunt would be out gardening and the soldiers would wave to her.

This article is reproduced by kind permission of the Wimbledon Society. This is a shortened version of what is available on the Museum of Wimbledon website, www.wimbledonmuseum.org.uk. This and other stories form part of the growing 'Oral History Library' being created by Tony Matthews, the (Society) newsletter editor. Log in to the website and be introduced to the many fascinating Wimbledon characters whose voices and memories have been captured for posterity. (You may find Internet Explorer a better browser for this purpose).



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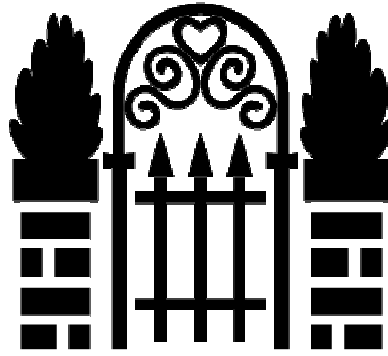


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Wimbledon Park Residents' Association

Front Garden Awards

2013

This is to announce the results our annual celebration of attractive front gardens in Wimbledon Park. A team of local residents looked at all gardens visible from the street to nominate their favourites. From these, a panel of judges arrived at the following decisions.

Overall winner of the John Uden Cup and

Best Summer Interest Garden

25 Stroud Road

This tiny south-facing garden packs a punch. Behind the low 'cloud-shaped' golden privet hedge, and in the porch, is a collection of containers burgeoning with a mix of brightly-coloured plants. These include geranium, gazania, lobelia, crocosmia, astilbe, cosmos, arum, houttuynia, and roses. A pleasing detail is provided by the 'escapee' plants at the base of the street tree. Looking upwards, attention is drawn to a tall glossy-leaved magnolia, expertly trained up the side of the porch, and across between the lower and upper bay windows.

Continued on Page 33

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Merton Residents Healthcare Forum (MRHF)

NEWSLETTER

ASK LISTEN FACILITATE ANALYSE COMMUNICATE ASK

The Forum was founded in response to the re-arrangement of the NHS under the Health and Social Care Act 2012. The upheaval that Act causes is so great that the NHS chief executive, Sir David Nicholson, declared the change programme “so large that you can see it from outer space”.

How are we personally - members of the public/patients/Merton residents - to understand what it is all about? A group of Merton people, including local residents associations, got together to form an independent channel of communication that would enable us to ask questions about services; get involved; gain information, analyse it, and circulate it widely. This is what the Forum is and does.

What's new? A few examples

Better Services Better Value (BSBV)'s Consultation on its Proposals - which will affect local hospitals and other healthcare providers in seven local London authorities – will take place from x to y this autumn.

St. George's NHS Trust is organising the election of Governors in the autumn 2013 as part of its application to become a Foundation Trust Hospital in 2014. Have you checked out what you need to do if you want to stand as a Governor? Nominations close early in October 2013.

Merton Healthwatch is now established as one of the local Healthwatch bodies within the national network, headed by Healthwatch England. It is managed by Merton Voluntary Services Council (MVSC) and funded by Merton Council. Come to our meeting on 16 October to hear more.

All GP surgeries are expected to set up Patient Participation Groups (PPGs). Has yours?

A new 111 'out of hours' non-emergency service is due to be commissioned by Merton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG); we aim to find out more.

There will be an increase in provision for private patients within St George's hospital; the details are awaited.

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What has MRHF done so far?

- Organised '*Tell us what's happening*' type of public meeting given by key people involved in local healthcare developments representing St George's, CCG, LINKMerton, Merton Council
- BSBV seminars (three) to explain the changes and the consultation
- Forum: *What is Patient Participation?* Input from: CCG, MVSC, Patients Association
- Provided feedback on key policy/consultation documents
- Probed CCG/BSBV legality questions and circulated the outcomes
- MRHF representatives joined BSBV Public and Patient Participation Groups
- Asked questions of Merton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) e.g. about the disclosure of the Board's Register of Interests; Freedom of Information involved.

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING: OCTOBER 16TH: 120 Wimbledon Broadway, 7-9 pm

Howard Freeman, Chair, Merton CCG: will talk about commissioning services

Representatives of Merton Healthwatch: will explain the role of Healthwatch

GET IN TOUCH mrfh2012@hotmail.co.uk FOR FURTHER DETAILS - ALL WELCOME.

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Best All-year Interest Garden
108 Melrose Avenue

The garden has a cool, inviting appearance, with the house front clothed in a well-trained mature wisteria. The cottage-style planting has a palette of pastel colours, and includes jasmine, arum, verbena bonariensis, heuchera, nepeta, hebe, digitalis, and wall flowers. The front wall doubles as a generous planter, which contains box balls and a lavender hedge, whilst a mix of shrubs and slender trees defines the side boundaries. A mock beehive provides storage, and a pot full of logs is a refuge for invertebrates.

Best Environmentally Sustainable Garden
21 Dawlish Avenue

This lovely mature topiary garden, in various shades of leaf colour, had the judges enthused by its environmental credentials. Closely spaced evergreen shrubs are underplanted with ivy, giving complete ground cover with minimal water loss, whilst creating a cooling effect and filtering pollutants from the air. Flowering plants jostle for space and include roses, lavender and hydrangea. The planting probably provides shelter for a range of wildlife, and is a source of nectar and berries at different seasons.

Presentation of the awards will take place at
the WPRA AGM on the 24th October and pictures of the winning and
commended gardens will be on display at the AGM

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

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 wimbledonpark.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. 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

Hedging on the south and east boundary of the park has been cut back recently and the work looks good. The grass cutting has also been undertaken regularly to make the grass areas good for relaxation and recreation. Again, our thanks go to the staff of Wimbledon Park.

The Jubilee shrub bed was cleared of weeds etc. on Saturdays 29th June and 27th July by local residents and members of the WPRA. The recently planted roses are looking good. Unfortunately, the acacia tree in this bed had died and was cut down during the clearance works.

During the hot period without rain the mulberry tree was starting to wilt (like some other trees in the Rec.). However, water was supplied regularly by Easisigns of Wellington Industrial Estate and the watering done by regular Recreation Ground users and this saved the day and the tree appears to be progressing well.

The fruit and nut hedge is doing well and losses were no more than 5 or 6, much less than the expected 10% to 15%.

Wimbledon Park Primary School Expansion Project

Building work on the Wimbledon Park Primary School extension continues. Work described in the Easter 2013 Newsletter continues, although will be undertaken much later than described.

The laying of the final surface to the Multi Use Games Area will be undertaken in August after which the lines marking out the games to be played in the area will be painted. Access to this site should be restricted whilst the work is undertaken.

The 'link road' between the MUGA and the builder's compound is still to be cleared of waste, rotovated and seeded. The wood fencing to the 'link road' requires some repair.

The school extension building work is due to be completed before the commencement of the school term.

The compound, currently used for the storage of building materials, will be cleared; new play equipment fitted and new trees planted and should be available for use by November 2013. (A plan of the proposed final layout is on the notice board inside the Wellington Road gate)

The green container within the MUGA site will eventually be removed.

Ivan Scott

W.P.R.A. Committee 2012/2013

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| Building Work | Bernie | 31 |
| Cancer advice | Wimbledon Cancer friendship | 37 |
| Carpenter | Daniel Smith | 7 |
| Central Heating | ABC Central Heating Services | 17 |
| Computer Services | London Computer Doctor | 2 |
| Estate Agents | Robert Holmes | 25 |
| | IMI Property Solutions | 40 |
| Garden design & Build | K D Raynsford | 32 |
| Gifts and Cards | Chalk | 13 |
| Indian Food takeaway | K2 | 27 |
| Locksmiths | Oakley Locksmiths Ltd | 37 |
| Painting & Decoration | Nigel Plumbe | 37 |
| Schools | French & Spanish à La Carte | 32 |
| | Little Learners (in the Park) | 39 |
| | Carmela Guida School of Ballet | 17 |
| Solicitors | McGlennons | 23 |
| | SW19Lawyers | 15 |
| Stain Glass & Leaded lights | Coriander | 23 |
| Tree Services | All Tree Services | 29 |
| Windows | SPS Timber Windows | 15 |
| Womens Institute | SW19 Womens Institute | 37 |



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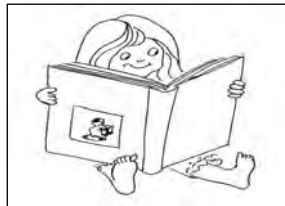
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