

Christmas 2012





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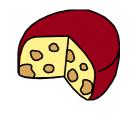
Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

From all at Gardners Butchers









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Cover photo courtesy of Andrew Wilson from his new book Wild About Wimbledon (see Page 38)

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Editorial help needed. Contact lain Simpson on 020 8947 1301 email: iainsimpson@imi-consulting.com

Chairman's Report

Wimbledon Park Hall

The steelwork has gone up remarkably quickly and we can now see the building outline properly. We understand the building might be completed by the Autumn of next year. In the meantime we will be making appropriate preparations for when we ultimately take over the ground floor premises. On page 6 you will find a plan of the ground floor which includes the Hall, cafe area, kitchen and toilets. The picture on Page 7 is a computer generated image of what the completed building should look like. We have already had some inquiries about letting the Hall and expect interest to increase as the building progresses. We are happy to take expressions of interest in long term letting arrangements as well as short term. However, until we have progressed our discussions with the Council (from whom we will be obtaining the lease) to the next stage, we cannot give confirmation of prices or make any firm commitments. We expect that situation to change within the next 3 months. If you are interested in finding our more about the plans for the Hall and would like to discuss possible future letting, you can email me on iainsimpson@imi-consulting.com or call me on 07836 361 782.

AGM report

We were pleased to welcome a good number of residents to the meeting and welcome Jane Plant, Volunteer Co-ordinator of the Tree Warden Group as guest speaker. The Chairman's report was made deliberately short on the basis that most important issues are covered in the newsletter. However I was pleased to report that our campaign to have Kenilworth Green (opposite the bottom of Kenilworth Avenue) deleted from the Council's list of sites for possible development, has been successful. I have had a letter from the Council confirming that the area will be protected as an 'open space'. Since then we have had discussions with the Highways Department who have agreed to do some necessary tree work which will open up the space considerably and allow us to undertake some suitable planting; in particular replace what was destroyed by the developer of the adjacent property.

We were grateful for the attendance at the meeting of the Architects for the 'Hall', H&C Architects LLP, who gave a short presentation on the current position of the building.

I would like to thank those committee members and other residents who contributed to making the AGM an enjoyable and successful evening.

International Evening

Despite what looked like a lack of interest in the early stages of planning, in fact it turned out to be a very successful evening. About 50 people enjoyed a very good evening with a huge variety of very tasty food from around the world; an immensely sociable atmosphere and some very enthusiastic dancing! A wonderful display of classical Indian dancing was provided by some younger members of the Modasia family and John Bilsand and Pauline did a great job of instructing us on some well known Scottish Dances. Lots of people contributed to the

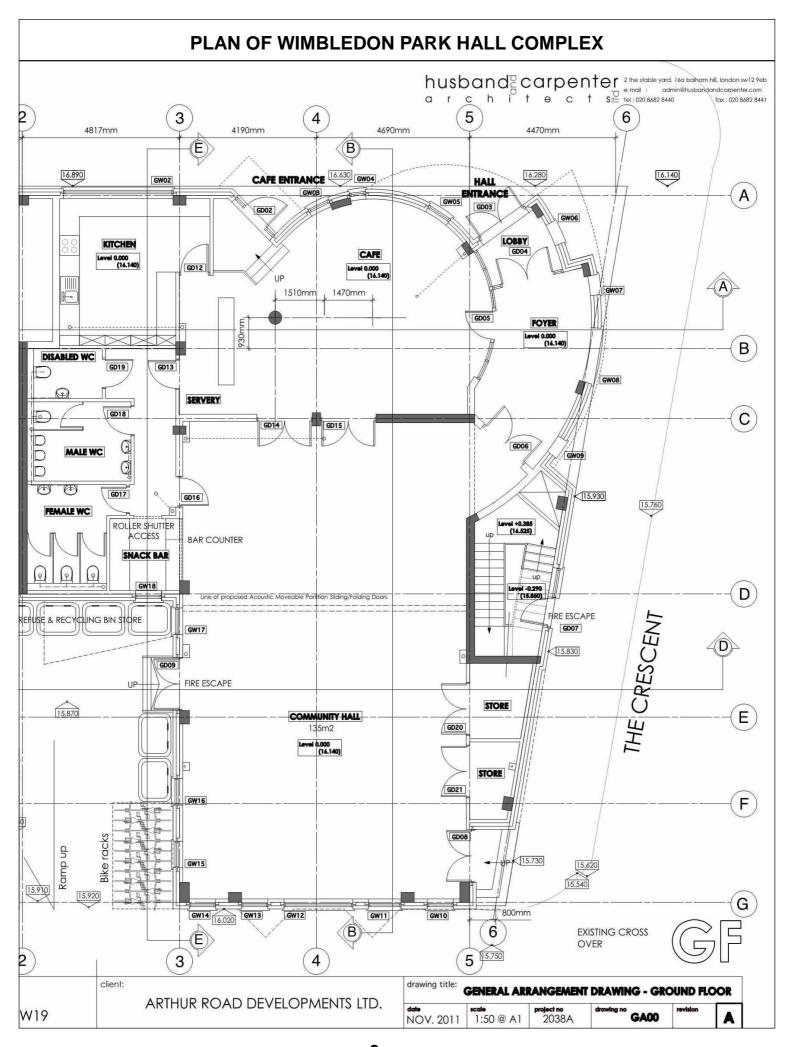
success of the evening but special thanks to Veronica Sarkhel who was the main organiser and inspiration.



Wimbledon Park—Car Park Extension

As many of you will know, the Council have applied for planning permission to make permanent the so called temporary car park inside the park at the Revelstoke gate. The original application was made in June but as a result of the massive wave of objections they changed the application by amending the Design and Access statement and producing a 'Transport report'.

We submitted objections on both occasions. Our objections are based on what we consider to be strong planning grounds given the fact that the present temporary car park, by its hard core base, is in fact a permanent structure and is a breach of the Council's own planning rules (this has been admitted by the Planning Department) and also is totally contrary to the Council's newly adopted 'Core Strategy'. Furthermore the park is a historically important 'open space' and listed grade II* by English Heritage. It is also in a Conservation area and as a result reguires much greater consideration. The Council has not provided any evidence that additional parking is necessary. As parking is free, it is clear to many local residents who are in the park on a daily basis, that there are people taking advantage of the free parking and not actually using the park. One can only surmise that the Council seems to be ignoring its own planning rules perhaps in the hope that it might, in some way, help towards offsetting the cuts in its Greenspaces budget. Another disgraceful example of this was the recent attempt by the Greenspaces department to tear up the grass surrounding the War Memorial in the Village, without any consultation. We understand they hoped to save money on grass maintenance by putting down tarmac instead! If you would like a copy of our objections just email me and I will send you a copy. Happy Christmas





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Friends of Wimbledon Park

'Friends of Wimbledon Park' has been formed as a result of extensive discussions between the Wimbledon Park Residents' Association, the Southfields Grid Residents' Association and the Wimbledon House Residents' Association. These are the main Residents' Associations which surround Wimbledon Park.

The reasons for forming the new group are:-

- to provide a proper forum for discussing the wide range of issues that concern local residents and regular Park users, and
- to provide a formal representative group for discussing these issues with the Park owners, managers and other interested organisations.

The objects of the Friends are for the public benefit:-

- to secure the preservation, protection and improvement of Wimbledon Park ("the Park") as a place of historic and ecological interest and beauty;
- to promote the conservation of the natural plant and animal life of the Park and, in particular, its retention as a natural habitat for wildlife;
- to educate the public in the history, natural history and other aspects of the Park;
- to support the implementation of a Conservation Management Plan for the Park;
- to acknowledge that the Park provides valuable resources for active and passive public recreation and that such pursuits can and should exist side-by side with the heritage values of the Park;
- to acknowledge that the Park, through its size, character, accessibility and facilities, has special features which should be enjoyed by people from this part of south-west London.

For the benefit of Park users:-

- to report back at regular intervals to local residents and members on the Park owner's plans and upkeep of the Park;
- seek and maintain a constructive and positive working relationship with the Park owners.

Those local residents who wish to join as members of the Friends of Wimbledon Park may do so by completing the Application Form on the next page and forwarding to one of the addresses listed. Those who include their e-mail address and tick as appropriate will receive a copy of the Friends' Executive Committee Minutes and, from time to time, other important information relating to Park issues. <u>Please note: unless you supply an email address with the application</u>, we are unable to acknowledge receipt.

Friends Of Wimbledon Park

To join the 'Friends of Wimbledon Park' (FOWP) please complete the following:							
TitleFo	rename	S	urname		*		
TitleFo	rename	S	urname		**		
Corporate nar	ne						
Address							
Post Code			Application Date	e			
Fmail***			DI -				
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a) Cheque – made payable to 'Friends of Wimbledon Park'

Delivered or posted, <u>with this application form</u>, to: The Chairman (FOWP), Nick Steiner, 116 Clonmore Street, SW18 5HB

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ALLEGATION	METHOD	LOCATION	DATE	TIME	DATE TO	TIME
Att. Burglary in a Dwelling.	Damage has been caused to the front door of a property near to the lock. No entry was gained to the property.	MOUNT ROAD	27/09/201 2	1100	08/10/201 2	1530
Att. Burglary Non Dwelling		PLOUGH LANE	18/10/201 2	1750	19/10/201 2	705
Burglary in a Dwelling.	By suspects removing the wooden panel in the ground floor window and gaining access to the house and taking property.	MELROSE AVENUE	16/10/201 2	1800	17/10/201 2	720
Crim Dam to M/Veh - £500 to £5000	Victim returned to her vehicle and noticed a long scratch along the offside and boot. No suspects seen or heard.	HAVANA ROAD	20/10/201 2	130	20/10/201 2	1200
Crim Dam to M/Veh - under £500	by suspect unknown damaging the rear windscreen wiper by snapping it off and shoving in the drivers side door handle	CAMELOT CLOSE	27/10/201 2	1930	28/10/201 2	630
Interference with Motor Vehicles	Suspects seen to open boot of a parked van before walking up and down road looking into other cars / vans.	KENILWORTH AVE- NUE	09/10/201 2	1417		
Interference with Motor Vehicles	Lorry left parked over weekend at base, driver side window smashed in order to force entry and the steering wheel and lock barrel damaged inside vehicle.	WEIR ROAD	20/10/201 2	1700	22/10/201 2	200
Theft from Motor Vehi- cles	By suspect unknown taking the four hubcaps from the vehicle without consent	DORA ROAD	22/10/201 2	800	26/10/201 2	1200
Theft from Motor Vehi- cles	Driver side wing mirror stolen by unknown suspect	DURNSFORD ROAD	29/10/201 2	2200	30/10/201 2	700
Theft from Motor Vehi- cles	Suspects unknown took tools from locked and secure van while Victim was inside shop. When Victim returned no sign of forced entry to van. No suspects seen.	PLOUGH LANE	20/09/201 2	1230	20/09/201 2	1430
Theft from Motor Vehi- cles	Suspects have used an unknown tool to gain entry to the van. Victim has disturbed them before they have been able to take anything and they have run off.	CAMELOT CLOSE	09/10/201 2	1005		
Theft from Motor Vehi- cles	Vehicle found with deep scratches on bonnet and bumper and rear windscreen wiper snapped off.	FARQUHAR ROAD	29/09/201 2	1900	30/09/201 2	1000
Theft from Motor Vehi- cles	By suspect/s unknown gaining entry to the vehicle using method unknown and once inside making off with the property listed.	AVONDALE ROAD	11/10/201 2	1000	11/10/201 2	1130
Theft from Motor Vehi- cles	by suspect not known forcing rear door and side door of vehicle and stealing power tools and hand tools from within	ASHEN GROVE	11/10/201 2	1545	11/10/201 2	1800
Theft from Motor Vehi- cles	By unknown person(s) attending location in a vehicle, passenger exiting the vehicle and forcing the rear door to vehicle open and taking items from within. Suspect then made off in the same vehicle they came in.	GORDONDALE ROAD	12/10/201	1655	12/10/201	1657



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Wimbledon Cancer Friendship Group

Offers friendship, information and a listening ear to anyone affected by any cancer.

Meets twice a month on the second and fourth Thursday - Free to attend Wimbledon Guild (30 Worple Road), 5 minutes walk from Wimbledon Station.

There's no meeting on the 27th December due to the holidays, but you can still contact us.

Christmas Buffet Lunch, 13th December 12.30-2pm: £5pp, please RSVP Upcoming Evening Talks, 7.30-9pm:

10th January: Veronique Furse, St. George's Hospital 'Improving the Cancer Experience'.
14th February: Sarah Henderson, St. George's Hospital Urology Clinical Nurse Specialist.
Upcoming Drop-in Meetings, 3.15-4.30pm: 22nd Nov, 24th Jan, 28th Feb.

Get in touch with one of our friendly volunteers for more details, or to RSVP:

wcfg@live.co.uk or 07948 767 936

900	200	028	1300	200	2359	220	1717		1836		1000	009	800
12/10/201 2	15/10/201 2	20/10/201 2	26/10/201 2	27/10/201 2	25/10/201 2	14/10/201 2	30/10/201 2		07/10/201 2		10/10/201 2	24/10/201 2	27/10/201 2
1200	2000	1915	2100	2300	006	200	-	1430	1823	200	1700	009	1600
07/10/201 2	12/10/201 2	19/10/201 2	25/10/201 2	26/10/201 2	01/01/201	14/10/201	07/10/201 2	24/10/201 2	07/10/201 2	10/10/201 2	09/10/201 2	22/10/201 2	26/10/201 2
HAVANA ROAD	WEIR ROAD	REVELSTOKE ROAD	ASHCOMBE ROAD	AVONDALE ROAD	ACUBA ROAD	DURNSFORD ROAD	ARTHUR ROAD	ARTHUR ROAD	WATERSIDE WAY	GAP ROAD	GRESHAM WAY	ARTHUR ROAD	VINEY ARD HILL ROAD
Car broken at some point over the course of six days, no sign of forced entry, sat nav and sunglasses stolen.	diesel drained form 3 vehicles at location by unknown sus-	vehicle left over night victim found vehicle in the morning side door open no damage and sat nav taken	By person(s) unknown taking all 4 hub caps from a vehicle whilst parked secure and unattended overnight.	all 4 Hubcaps taken from victim's vehicle by person(S) unknown whilst vehicle was parked on street parking outside Victim's home address	spare wheel removed	Suspect and Victim are/were partners. They went out for the evening with friends, then came back to her place together. Both were drunk. After a disagreement Suspect left, taking Victim's phone and watch.	Unknown suspect removed york stone patio from dwelling garden	By suspect taking phone from location without consent	By suspect as shown entering vehicle by method unknown, then starting vehicle and making off.	Victim's moped was taken from outside his home address. They heard the bike being taken	Person(S) unknown have stolen vehicle which had been left outside the venue shown locked and unattended	suspect unknown has by method unknown stolen two cycles from venue whilst left secured and unattended	Vehicle entered and handbrake taken off, vehicle then pushed approx 20yds down the road into another vehicle by a suspect unknown.
Theft from Motor Vehi- cles	Theft from Motor Vehi- cles	Theft from Motor Vehi- cles	Theft from Motor Vehi- cles	Theft from Motor Vehi- cles	Theft from Motor Vehi- cles	Theft in a Dwelling	Theft Not Classified Elsewhere	Theft Not Classified Elsewhere	Theft of Motor Vehicle	Theft of Motor Vehicle	Theft of Motor Vehicle	Theft of Pedal Cycles	Unauthorised Taking Motor Vehicle

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The Village Hall Gallery – A Gallery for the Community



A new exhibition gallery was officially opened in March this year in the Wimbledon Village Hall complex, at the corner of Ridgway and Lingfield Road, Wimbledon. It is intended for exhibitions by local artists and schools and the Museum of Wimbledon.

The entrance is in Lingfield Road and the gallery is at first floor level. The dimensions and details are available from the website (see below).

The gallery has a carpeted floor with under-floor heating, plastered walls, remote controlled roof lights and blinds and controlled ventilation. There is a J rail picture hanging system and LED spotlights on two tracks running the length of the gallery.

There are plenty of power points and computer points, a lockable storeroom and adjoining toilets, including special toilets for children.

The gallery is let on a weekly basis (Tuesday – Monday) and can be used during the day and evening at a charge of £70 for the week (£50 for Schools). Displays will normally be set up on Tuesday giving a full weekend for public exhibitions and allowing Monday to take down and clear the gallery ready for the next exhibition. Adjoining the gallery is the Lingfield Room, which is a large room, seating about thirty people. It can be hired separately or in conjunction with the gallery.

To find out more or to arrange a booking go to the website www.wimbledonvht.org.uk

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Merton Residents Healthcare Forum

The last edition of this newsletter devoted space to news of Merton Residents Healthcare Forum (MRHF) leading with the question 'What's this all about?' The article then proceeded to set out some of the Forum's aims, highlighting a major concern that so much change was occurring in health and social care but few of us had much of a clue about why and how this was the case.

The Forum has been very active since then creating a network of contacts and planning a programme of activities. WPRA, as you will know, is one of the founder members of the Forum, and is closely involved in all aspects of this development.

What has the Forum done so far?

We've been very active. In September, we were involved in supporting St George's decision to arrange a meeting for members to discuss the changes that had been put in place to safeguard patients' care after the death of Kane Gorny.

Our own first public meeting took place on 10th October and provided the opportunity to hear about the ways in which local residents were able to be involved in decision-making. The five speakers were representative of major bodies involved in healthcare provision: Peter Jenkinson and Trudi Kemp, St George's NHS Trust, answered questions about Foundation Trust status and what it meant both for the hospital and for the local community; Dr Gnanpragam Vasa described the work of the local Clinical Commissioning Group; Linda Kirby provided an overview of Merton Council's Health and Well Being strategy; and Barbara Price gave a presentation on the role of LINk and the steps being taken in the transition to the establishment of the new watch-dog, aptly named Healthwatch, in April 2013.

Over the last three months it's been vital that we keep abreast of the consultations associated with Healthwatch and also the Health and Well Being Strategy.

We have probed the rationale for the GP Surgery Finance Review. We have also been in touch with the review team Better Services Better Value (BSBV) about the basis for their recommendations on the status of St Helier hospital.

The Forum is now putting in place a programme of activities for 2013. In the next public meeting we aim to focus on an area that runs through so many healthcare initiatives, namely Patient Participation (PP); we need to ask the questions What does PP mean and what is its potential? We also hope to arrange in due course a series of meetings spotlighting, for example, centres of excellence in local healthcare, the nature of privatisation, discharge processes in local hospitals.

Is the Forum exercising influence on residents' behalf? It is much too early to make an overall judgment about that but, yes, we think so. We have a foot in the door now and are on our way to serving a very useful purpose. At the meeting on



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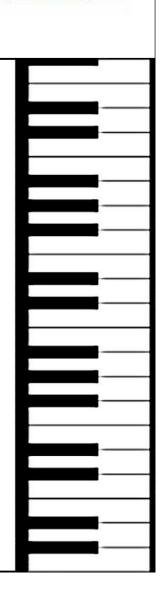
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10th October, members of the audience provided an endorsement of the role that MRHF has set out.

It will, of course, be important that from April, 2013, the Forum's work complements that of Healthwatch. Please let us hear from you personally about issues that you think the Forum should cover.

Iain Simpson and Pat Tunstall

If you would like to makes suggestions or be on our email list you can contact us at mrhf2012@hotmail.co.uk

Wimbledon Park Primary School/Durnsford Recreation Ground Expansion Project – Update

Building work within the school area has commenced and continues.....

Inside of the Rec the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) is complete except for the final surface. Unfortunately, the late start and inclement weather has prevented this surface, which needs adequate temperature to 'set', from being laid. It will be Spring before this is complete. The current black surface will then be covered by green (although some of the men have told me 'off the record' that it will be pink or scarlet!).

At the time of writing, the fence around the MUGA still has to be erected together with the new 5-a-side football goals, which will incorporate the basketball nets, and the netball nets will be provided. The current black surface may be marked out for these sports before the final surface is laid. Writer's comment – should there not be a low fence all around the football pitch to bounce the ball off.....?

This delay will mean that the temporary roadway across the Rec will remain until the Spring.

Digging work inside the fenced area was done from the wrong plans, which affected some tree roots. This area has been re-covered with soil and turfed. Also turfed is the small area previously used for football and basketball (an area much too small) and grass areas around the MUGA. With the cutting of the original grass around the area it is beginning to look good.

The mulberry tree looks as if it will survive with many of the leaves dropping off rather than dying.

So Dads (and Mums of course) – is it not time you considered creating road football, basketball and netball teams and leagues.....it's up to you!?

Ivan Scott



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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 for	orm and returi	n it to us with your payment:
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Address		
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Email***		
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	y, DeNica Fair	cription through the door of the rman at 3 Strathmore Rd, or of our Park Rd.
_		cluded on an e-mail list for crime alerts n other important local issues
		Please date/

Interesting Walks

During July, I had the chance to be part of three amazing walks which heavily featured Wimbledon Park, and their link is St Mary's and children.

The first in early July was a small group led by Martin Sumpton. It was a walk round the grounds of the Wimbledon Park Golf Club. They are thanked for making it possible. It was a very enjoyable time, spent watching children enjoying themselves on a beautiful sunny day, in water craft on the lake, and seeing many views, including the Boat House in the park, where usually one sees the view from the Boat House. It was so wonderful to see the lovely trees, the well kept greens and birds with their young. It was also good to chat about big issues in the park, like how to stop the lake silting up.

In the middle of July, I was very privileged to go on an interfaith walk. Details are shown



below. From each of the religious buildings we had a speaker telling us about their faith, and enjoyed refreshments. Our stop at the Wimbledon Mosque Prayer Hall

was managed by Mr.
Saleem Sheink and the
Chairman of the Mosque
Council. They explained
the history of the Mosque
and their beliefs. It was
so refreshing to hear
people speaking of what
they believe, and also
discussing along the way
with young people, big
social and religious issues with a great sense of

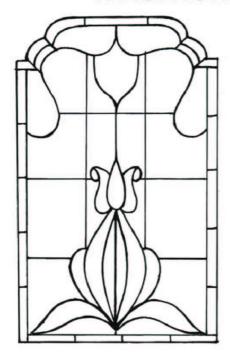
mutual understanding. I also talked with a boy the same age as Jonathan my son. He was a very keen Crystal Palace fan and could not be persuaded there were better teams.

Later on in July, the Wimbledon Society organised a walk which was led by John Harvey who has written a book called "A Firm Foundation" about the history of Bishop Gilpin junior school, which is on Lake Road. In was formed in 1758, when the Rev'd Cooksey of St Mary's met with others in the Rose and Crown to form a charity school for the poor children of Wimbledon. This was to learn reading, writing and religion. The walk visited Rushmere and one of the sites of the Study school, where the Old Central School, (the former name of Bishop Gilpin School) used to meet. It was a wonderful informative walk. It finished with refreshments at the Crooked Billet.

Ken Ball



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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

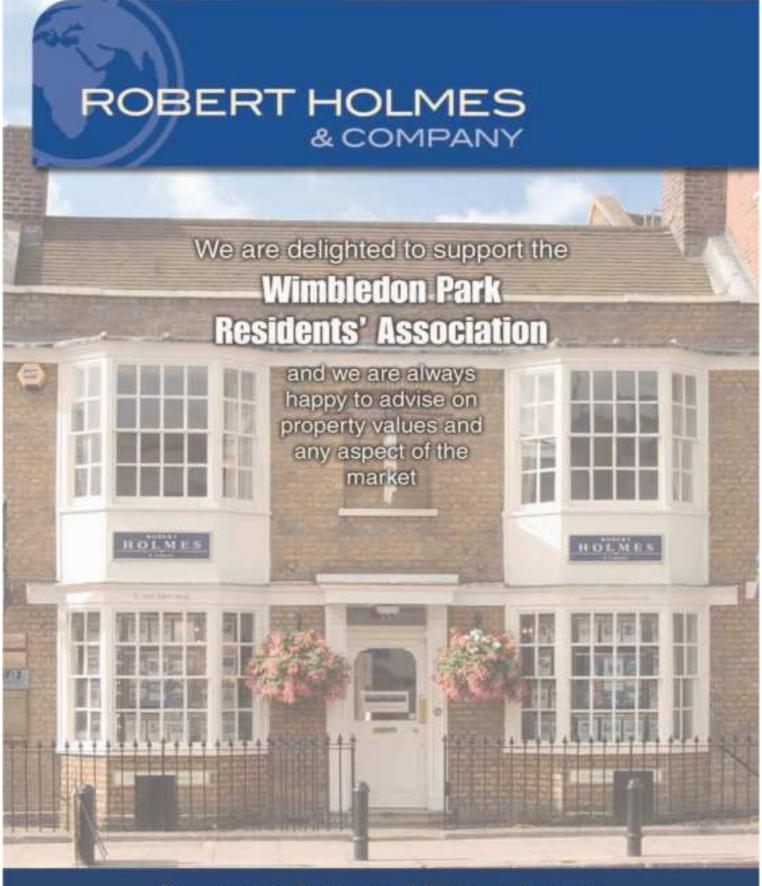
It has never been easier to report a crime or make the police aware of any suspicious activity in your local neighbourhood. As well as the "999" number, which should always be used if you require an immediate police response, you can contact us on "101". Generally speaking, if it's happening now telephone "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. 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.



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The day Stroud Road was car free

On a Sunday in early June, Stroud Road was car free, due to the holding of a Diamond Jubilee Party. The last time I think the street was car free was in 1953.

A group of residents including Lucy, Jane, Alicia, Nicky, Caroline's 1+2, Bernadette, Sam, Richard and Anna plus others, organised the Sunday party, to ensure that most people in our road had a wonderful time, chatting, enjoying food, sausages/BBQ meat, with the help of Gardner + Son in Arthur Road and the barbeques from the local Scout Group. Before the 2pm start, many people helped by streaming bunting across the road, putting up tables, laying out food they had prepared and setting up three easy ups.

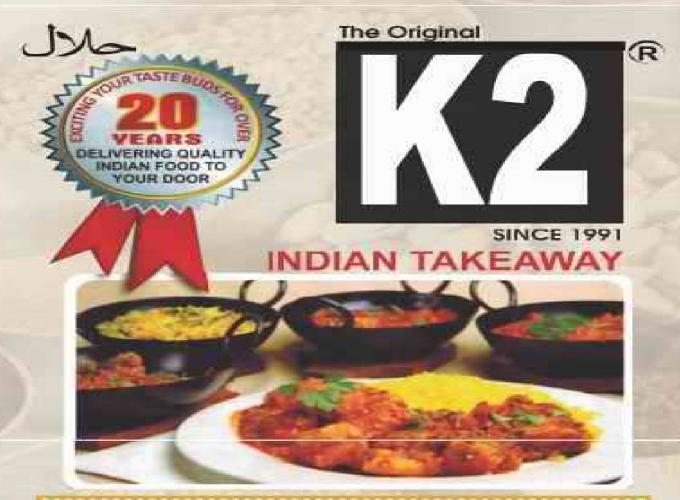
It was so good to see the young people of the road playing football, while some rode their bikes, caught toy ducks and others did wonderful Arts and Craft. There was wonderful background music and a map of the world was produced to show the roots of everyone who lives in the road.

We did have some rain during the day, though that didn't stop the enjoyment of the day. The Leader of Council Stephen Alambritis visited and stayed a while chat-



ting. It was good to be able to chat with people who had lived in the road for different periods of time. There a famous taken of a street party in our Road to celebrate the end of World War II and the South London press came along and took photo to recreate the same photo at our street party.

The party continued till dusk with people mingling, chatting and people younger hopping around on a pogo stick. The next day all the bunting and tables etc were gone, the cars returned though the spirit of community that was evident on that day, still remains. Ken Ball



K2 is my Indian takeaway of choice! Delicious, authentic food that's easy on the wallet. Some things are worth the calories, and the food at K2 is one of them...

View London (23rd August 2005)

I have been using K2 for over 10 years now and I can honestly say that it is the best curry in South West London bar none. I have tried most things on the menu but now religiously order; Prawn Puree, Murgh Nilgiri, Pilau Rice, Peshwari Naan. The food is always delivered piping hot, on time and perfectly cooked. I cannot recommend them highly enough, try for yourself - you will not be disappointed !!!

Tooting Spence (London - Eating, 18th August 2011)

K2 Indian Takeaway is a fabulous curry house!!! I have been ordering from here for a number of years now, food is always yummy, delivered within the stated time, service is excellent and topped off with the complimentary side salad, dips and popadom's:) a real treat.

Bobby SW19 (Trusted Places, 8th April 2012)

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A Christmas Message from St Luke's

Dear Friends

The blockbuster of the year was surely the latest James Bond film – Skyfall. If you haven't seen it, don't worry, I won't spoil the plot! In it, we find a rather different Bond. Gone are the gadgets and gone is the scene-to scene action.

In their place is an altogether deconstructed Bond; a (dare I say) vulnerable Bond. We are given Bond's backstory; we get to know something of his childhood; we even get mention of his parents. And as we are invited to relive his past we get in some measure, a glimpse of what drives him and an insight in to the very thing that makes him, well, Bond.

Of course, the story-line is still compelling (some would argue more so) and there are brilliant flashes of nostalgia.

And as the film unfolds we are confronted with the question: Does Bond have a future or is he an antiquated relic, an irrelevance from a bygone age?

As we celebrate Christmas this month, perhaps we might take the opportunity to deconstruct the familiar? The familiar trappings of excess and of self, of Dickensian winters and dodgy sweaters, of 'season's greetings' and TV specials.

Who is this vulnerable baby, born in to poverty some 2000 years ago? What is his backstory? Is the story of Jesus an antiquated relic, an irrelevance from a bygone age?

The bible describes the coming of Jesus as an event of massive significance for God's dealings with the world he made and for every one of us in it. In Luke's gospel we learn from the angel that "Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord".

The deconstructed Christmas is about who Jesus really is: God's real solution to the real problem with the world. It is this that is the meaning hidden under the layers of familiarity – God's genuine love for each of us by sending his only son to rescue us.

So please do join us this Christmas; we have plenty of services throughout December – full details are available on our website: www.wimbledonchurch.co.uk

If we don't meet, may I take this opportunity to wish you a fabulously deconstructed Christmas. Oh, and if you're having a Martini....well, you know the rest!

With best wishes

Reverend William Rogers Curate, St Luke's Church

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MUSEUM'S BIRTH FULFULLED AN OLD DREAM AT NO PUBLIC COST

By

Tony Matthews

FRIDAY (26 October 2012) 9am: When the Museum of Wimbledon opened to visitors at 22 Ridgway for the very first time 96 years ago on 19 October 1916, it fulfilled a dream dating right back to the mid 19th century.

There were no sophisticated displays or art gallery - let alone the interactive wizardry seen in so many museums today - but for the first time, local people could briefly take their minds off the First World War to see a variety of objects, pictures and items of interest on permanent view right in the heart of Wimbledon Village. Moreover, it came at no charge to the public purse as it was run entirely by the local conservationist group, the John Evelyn Club, forerunner of today's Wimbledon Society.

But setting up the museum had been a very long haul indeed. Long before the John Evelyn Club existed, a museum had been planned alongside the reading room, library, and lecture hall of the Village Club when that was founded in 1859 by local surgeon Joseph Toynbee (see Heritage page 6 July 2012). Sadly, Toynbee's accidental death in 1866 as the result of an experiment in his surgery had put the idea on hold and for more 40 years nothing further happened.

Finally in 1903 when the John Evelyn Club was set up in order to help protect Wimbledon's fast disappearing historical features and natural environment, the new group's founder, Richardson Evans, proposed forming a local museum and reference library "primarily devoted to the illustration of local annals, antiquities, art and natural history".

It was a bold aspiration but the local authority showed no interest in funding it. Another three years passed before Evans – who lived at The Keir on Common Westside – was able to organise a special exhibition of watercolours, portraits, maps, books and miscellaneous objects, not at the Village Club but at an Art College in Alwyne Road. The objects included a falcon's bell, a wooden ear trumpet and the official coat once worn by the Wimbledon Beadle – all potential exhibits for a permanent museum.

The exhibition proved popular and Evans followed it up by creating another one at his own house. Wimbledon's local councillors were invited to see it and he urged them to adopt a more imaginative approach for the public benefit. They refused.

Eventually the Village Club's own trustees ended the procrastination by inviting the John Evelyn Club to use its reading room for a museum as well as committee meetings. Evans and his colleagues were delighted and soon decorated and adapted the room, bringing in albums for photographs and press cuttings and a cabinet for prints and maps.

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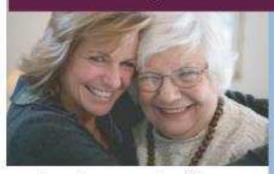
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Friends Of Wimbledon Park

News update for members, November 2012

The battle goes on against the proposed extension of the car park

As you probably know, Merton Council recently revised its planning application for the extension of the car park by the Revelstoke Road entrance to the park. This meant it had to publish the new plans and invite the public to comment once more. The deadline for comments was November 2, and many FOWP members made individual objections, in addition to the formal FOWP objection prepared by Nick Steiner, with lots of helpful input from various people. The Wimbledon Park Residents' Association and Southfields Councillors also submitted objections. When we hear any news on the Council's decision, we will of course keep you updated.

Looking after Horse Close Wood

Dave Lofthouse, arboricultural manager for Merton Council, will liaise with Nick Steiner on a National Grid project which is due to take place in Horse Close Wood over the winter. We understand that there may also be some forthcoming tree work along parts of the northern boundary of the wood, due to the trees' close proximity to houses and gardens. When left alone, the wood tends to thrive, though it does sometimes suffer from builders working in adjacent properties. Dave has assured FOWP that Jane Plant, volunteer Tree Warden Coordinator, will keep us informed whenever there is any tree work planned in the park.

Name that stream

Plans are afoot to ask local schools to take part in the naming of the streams that flow into and out of the park. This should be a fun project that helps children to get more involved in their local park, and to take pride and interest in its natural features.

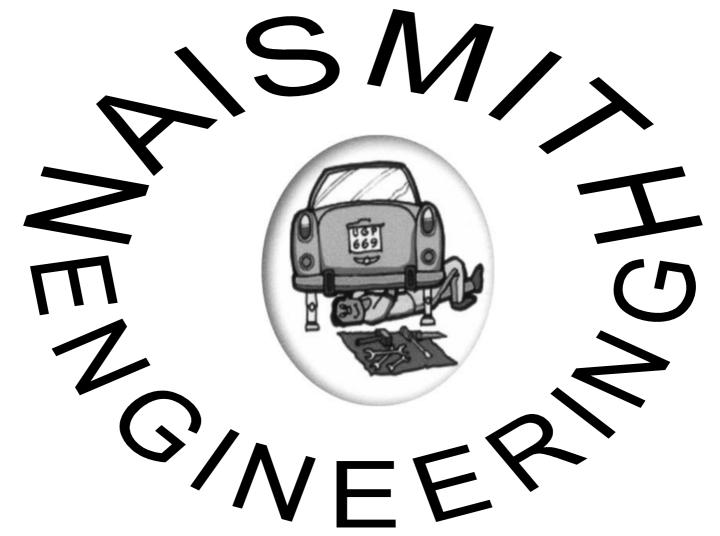
Wimbledon Fortnight/Olympics

During the Wimbledon Tennis Championships this year, residents of Revelstoke Road put up a 'residents only' sign to deter cars from entering the cul-de-sac. This worked well – but Merton Council's highways department removed it because a Traffic Management Order had not been obtained. Next year, if residents want to do the same, two such orders will be required, one each from Merton and Wandsworth Councils, at a cost of £250 each. FOWP is going to approach AELTC to see if they will meet the cost.

The grass which was significantly damaged by the Championships and the Olympics has now been repaired and is growing well. Meanwhile, there is a proposal to construct a 10m x 7.5m concrete slab and permanent foul drain in the golf course owned by AELTC, at the Wimbledon Park Road end of the park, as a site for temporary portacabin toilets for those queuing for the tennis. The proposal involves the felling of one field maple tree and the planting of two oak trees. FOWP is investigating and considering its response.

Sports update

Football and cricket (See next page)



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There have been calls for more football pitches and cricket squares in the park. However, the park is already used for touch rugby and various ball games and can't accommodate any more formalized pitches. The fitting of cricket nets has also been raised, but FOWP's opinion is that The Wimbledon Club could be approached regarding this.

Athletics Stadium

Burns and cracks to the Athletics Stadium track surface are currently being repaired. Although many people believe that the poplar trees around the boundary of the Stadium are the cause of the cracking, this is not the case, as Merton Council periodically opens a trench and checks for roots, none of which have been found. FOWP recently learned that The Wimbledon Club wants to create a hockey pitch within the track.

Tennis

There are problems with the surface carpet on the tennis courts and work has stopped, because heavy machinery can't be driven over it. We hope to receive more information shortly about the work, so that we can keep you informed.

Ping pong

Discussions are under way about the best way to bring ping pong tables to the park – possibly to the new volleyball area.

Waterfall Garden

The loose gravel in the Waterfall Garden has been replaced by fixed to prevent stones being thrown into the stream.

Better rubbish bins needed

There is a problem in clearing the waste around bins, which is often scattered by foxes. Other types of bins could be considered for installation in the busiest areas of the park. These can be difficult to pick up and empty, but there would be a reduced need for litter picking.

Open (not quite) all hours

The official opening times for the park are 8am on weekdays and 9am at weekends, though in practice the park is usually open about half an hour earlier than these times. There is currently no sign indicating opening times on the gates, although closing times are noted. We are considering whether better notices are required and whether it might be possible for local residents to have a key to the pedestrian gate. Your views on this are welcome.

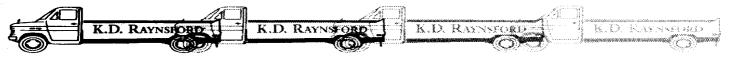
Our membership is growing

FOWP now has 45 members, including four corporate members. A Secretary and Membership Secretary have now been appointed, though we still need someone to create and run our website. An application made in June to the Capital Community Foundation for funding for a website has, despite reminders, still not been decided. We hope that the official launch of FOWP will take place in the February half term, possibly in the Community Clubhouse, with separate events for children and adults, and themes of sport and the environment.

Founder members

Southfields Grid Residents Association; Wimbledon Park Residents Association; Wimbledon House Residents Association

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At first the museum was only open on Wednesday afternoons but proved so popular that the hours were extended to every day. It had to close two years later when the whole building was commandeered for war use and the collection was moved temporarily to Eagle House. When the museum finally re-opened in April 1920 its hours were limited to Saturday afternoons.

Since those early days the Museum of Wimbledon has seen various closures and transfers of its collection, not least during the Second World War when various places of safety were used. However, the collection itself has always survived and in due course been enhanced as its home at 22 Ridgway has re-opened in triumph.

Nowadays the Museum of Wimbledon is open every Saturday and Sunday afternoon. There have been a series of refurbishments and extensions – most recently the addition of the new art gallery by the Village Hall Trust which allowed this year's major display of the museum's collection of historic watercolours (see Heritage page 3 February 2012). Before this, there were many special exhibitions such as those commemorating the centenary of Wimbledon Theatre, the bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade thanks to local hero William Wilberforce, and the anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar, won by another local hero, Lord Nelson.

This article first appeared in October this year in the online (Wimbledon) Guardian Heritage page The Author, Tony Matthews, is Newsletter Editor of the Wimbledon Society Newsletter. Tony has contributed a story on Wimbledon's history every week, to the Guardian, since the beginning of the year and will have written 52 by the end of the year. The Society will be consolidating these fascinating stories of Wimbledon history in a book to be published next year.



Historic display model

Panels explaining Wimbledon History

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Entrance to Museum and Model of Wimbledon's original Tudor Manor House



As the nights draw in and the weather turns colder and wetter it's not easy to see Wimbledon in all her glory, but now, thanks to a new book, it is possible to experience the joys of Wimbledon from the comfort of your own armchair.

Wild About Wimbledon is a book of stunning photographs by local photographer Andrew Wilson which captures the town, the village and the common through the seasons of the year. Whether it is the morning mist hovering over Wimbledon Park or the 2012 Olympic logos adoming the pavements of the village in the summer, or the magical setting of the Windmill on the common, Andrew's book celebrates all that is eye-catching in Wimbledon.

The introduction, by local historian Clive Whichelow, reminds us of the myriad identities of SW19 such as sporting Wimbledon, heritage Wimbledon, green Wimbledon and so on, which go to make up this intriguing and much-loved area. The book also includes a lovely watercolour map by local artist Sally Burrough.

Andrew has successfully published six books of local photographs on Barnes, Kew and Putney, amongst others, while Clive has published several local titles including Pubs of Wimbledon Village, Local Highwaymen and the Local Mystery of Robin Hood. So prepare to rediscover Wimbledon and fall in love with it all over again. Wild About Wimbledon would make an ideal Christmas present for anyone with an affection for this special corner of south London.

Wild About Wimbledon: Where The Town Meets The Country, sponsored by Wimbledon estate agent Robert Holmes is published by Unity Print and Publishing Ltd and is available to buy (price £19.99) from all good bookstores including

Wimbledon Books and Music, Wimbledon Village and Waterstones, Wimbledon Bridge.

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