



Christmas 2014



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Christmas edition 2014

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Chairman's Report

Wimbledon Park Hall - Arthurs Café is now open for business

Many of you will now be aware that our Café at Wimbledon Park Hall is now open. Business has been fairly brisk since the opening on October 27th and the comments have been very complimentary about both the ambience and the quality of food on offer, which is almost all home made. This is effectively a Café run for the Community by the community. The Café is leased out to Yasmin Kuhn in a normal commercial arrangement by the Wimbledon Park Community Trust. We are hopeful that it will be a great success.

Greyhound stadium proposals from Hume Consulting

Since our last newsletter the report commissioned from Planning Consultants RPS have been published and has been made available on our website together with a press release. The findings of the report persuaded Hume Consulting to go back to the drawing board and significantly scale down their development proposals. The new set of revised proposals has reduced the amount of residential housing and also the attendance capacity of the stadium. We particularly welcome the provision of space for community facilities including a doctor's surgery, schooling, gym and fitness facilities as well as extensive areas of green space. This shows that Paschal Taggart was taking note of local residents' express concerns at the public meetings.

We believe these revised and reduced plans for the stadium site in Plough Lane would create a new development that would enhance the area, benefiting local residents and businesses. They would also meet Merton Borough Council's goal of sporting intensification for the site. Details of these proposals and our response are on our website and accessible from the home page. Our press release is also repeated on pages 6 and 8 of this newsletter.

Finally, we understand the much promised planning application from Galliard/AFC has now been lodged with the Council. It will no doubt be several weeks before the detail will be in the public domain. We look forward to seeing the detail and will be responding accordingly. It is regrettable that this process will be taking place so close to Christmas (the cynics amongst us who have long experience of difficult planning applications might assume this was deliberate) with the accompanying huge increase of mail delivery. This increases the chances that the formal letters advising those interested parties of the statutory three week consultation period will get delayed in the post. It is too much to hope that this part of the process will be delayed until the New Year.

Closure of Vineyard Hill Surgery (the surgery)

Patients of the surgery were shocked to receive a letter from NHS England advising them that the surgery was going to close at the end of March 2015. This was a shock since all indications from the surgery, in recent months was that they were carrying on as normal.

The information provided by NHS England stated that the partners had decided to retire and set out the terms of a consultation. As many of us know, the public meeting that was held about two years ago was organised by the partners to gain support for opposing the new funding contract regime that was being imposed by the NHS based on the so called Carr Hill formula. The impact of this new contract was to reduce the surgery's funding by between 25% and 40%. Since that meeting nothing more was heard from the partners and we understand that the surgery has since continued on the old contract terms. Certainly at that meeting the partners indicated a desire to continue for at least another five years.

The circumstances surrounding the recent announcement are, to say the least, slightly mysterious. As with all such situations, the devil is in the detail and we think there is plenty that we have not seen !

The public meeting held on November 4th in our new hall with NHS England representatives was useful and allowed a great many relevant questions to be asked. The decision of that meeting was that the WPRA, Councillors and MP Stephen Hammond should work towards negotiations with the Surgery and NHS England to try to retain a surgery in Wimbledon Park. We have asked all patients to respond to the consultation and vote for procurement of a new surgery as opposed to dispersal of around 5,500 patients to other surgeries in the area. If you wish to be kept up to date with our progress, send an email to retainoursurgery@gmail.com.

Complaint about Cllr Judge

In my last report I referred to this. Since then I have met with those responsible in the Council for Corporate Governance and subsequently the complaint has been through the required process. Recently I received a letter stating that 'a formal investigation is not necessary and no alternative action is required.'

I remain unconvinced and will consider whether I should take this matter to the Local Government Ombudsman.

A Happy Christmas to all.

Wimbledon Park Residents' Association response to Paschal Taggart's revised greyhound stadium proposals

The WPRAs welcome the revised plans of Hamilton Architects, commissioned by Paschal Taggart, for the redevelopment of the Greyhound Stadium in Plough Lane. We are pleased that they have taken note of site restrictions concerning transport and flooding, highlighted by the recent RPS report commissioned by WPRAs, and have scaled down their development proposals accordingly.

The number of spectators has been reduced from 4,500 to a maximum of 3,000, allaying the Association's transport concerns. Indeed, the average number of visitors under this revised scheme is on a par with the current number of visitors to the Greyhound Stadium; a situation which residents are already accustomed to' due to the many years dog racing has taken place on this site.

The new plans also reduce the number of residential units from 550 to 230. This, along with the ability to store surface water in the centre of the Greyhound Stadium, will significantly increase the chances of the revised scheme being compatible with the category 3b (highest risk) floodplain assessment of this site by the Environment Agency. It is worth noting that a substantial reduction in housing provision on-site also puts less pressure on future demand for school places in this part of the borough.

The WPRAs also welcome the provision of space for community facilities including a doctor's surgery, schooling, gym and fitness facilities as well as extensive areas of green space. We believe these revised and reduced plans for the stadium site in Plough Lane would create a new development that would enhance the area, benefiting local residents and businesses. They would also meet Merton Borough Council's goal of sporting intensification for the site.

The WPRAs commissioned the RPS report to examine initial (pre-planning) development proposals from both Hume Consulting and AFC Wimbledon/Galliard Homes to establish whether they addressed issues specific to this site. The report concluded that the proposals for the Plough Lane Greyhound Stadium put forward by AFC Wimbledon/Galliard Homes were not compatible with planning guidelines, and considered that it would be difficult to modify them in order to meet statutory requirements for traffic, transportation and flood risk in the area.

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This backed up the conclusions of the WPRA, which considered that proposals from both parties were of a scale that was inappropriate for the site.

We await the presentation of revised plans from AFC Wimbledon/Galliard Homes for this site, should they intend to pursue their intention to redevelop the Greyhound Stadium, and hope that they will reflect expert recommendations on flooding, traffic and transportation issues.

The WPRA has never opposed AFC Wimbledon's quest to find a permanent home in the borough, but we do not believe that the Greyhound Stadium is a suitable location for the scale of development that has been proposed. Neither are we apologists for the sport of greyhound racing. As a residents organisation, our wish is to ensure that whatever development takes place on the Plough Lane site serves to enhance rather than blight the lives of people who live in the neighbourhood, as well as meets national planning guidelines, which exist to ensure that projects of this scale will be acceptable to local residents, shops and businesses and not blight the surrounding area. It is worth noting that the WPRA undertook a number of steps before reaching its view on the two proposals for Plough Lane that have been put forward so far, namely:

- Our members have carefully studied national planning guidelines and presented a case to the planning inspector for this site.**
- We carried out a randomised and statistically significant survey in streets close to Plough Lane which showed that 80% thought a large-scale football stadium was not beneficial, 70% opposed it and only 10% supported it. This was at a time when local residents had been provided with absolutely no information about Merton Borough Council's intentions for the site.**
- We commissioned one of the UK's leading planning consultants, RPS, to examine the two proposals.**

The RPS report and previous documents written by the WPRA can be found at <http://www.wimbledonpark.com/>.

You may also be interested in another website we have discovered created by local residents. www.ploughlanestadium.wordpress.com

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Michael and Bridget Rooke's Butcher's Shop listed by English Heritage

This shop, with its remarkable original ironwork and tiling is going to survive the plans of its owner. Ruth and Dave Dawson report on the progress so far. The Council has turned down two proposals to change the shop. English Heritage has given the shop a Grade II listing. Michael and Bridget have retired, and there was a good send off by many local friends at the Woodman in mid September, including Alf from the shop and our MP, Stephen Hammond.

The proposals for the shop submitted to the Council left many concerned residents confused. Take a deep breath, and try to follow what actually happened!

First, there was an existing planning permission dating back two years, to convert the existing flat on the first and second floors into two separate flats and to add a mansard roof flat as a third floor. Then, before Mike and Bridget left, the owner submitted a new planning application to develop much of the shop on the ground and basement levels as part of a new three-bedroom flat with access only from service lane to the rear. But the details of this application were not available whilst the Council sought further information from the owner.

These details were still not available when the owner submitted a second new application in September to move the front of the shop out to the building line. Confusingly, the plans submitted for this second application were not confined to the shop front. Instead the plans for the first application were used. This made some of the details of the first application available before it was officially out for consultation and many people made submissions on the proposed three-bedroom flat by mistake. Even more confusion came when the owner began preparatory work to implement the existing planning permission for the three flats above the shop. Some people thought that the work was on the shop area in advance of planning permission.

In early October Merton Council finally published the full details of the proposals to convert much of the shop into a three-bedroom flat, but there was no other publicity and few people made submissions on this application. Whilst this first application was being considered, the Council refused permission for the second. This was because an exceptionally high quality original shopfront would be lost: with original features and details of historic value that contribute to the established character of the shopping parade.



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This refusal led the owner to modify his earlier proposals to develop the shop into a flat. This modification was not advertised and practically nobody noticed that the plans had been changed to keep the shop front. Merton Council finally refused permission for this revised application on Armistice Day, for three reasons. First, the proposed flat hadn't enough living space. Second, the remaining shop area would be too cramped to be viable. Third, no permit-free parking was provided.

Whilst all this was going on, we applied in September to have the butcher's shop listed by English Heritage. We also discovered that Merton Council had powers to make a Building Preservation Notice as an interim measure whilst English Heritage considered the matter. We wrote to Cllr Judge in October to ask for this and he confirmed that it was in train. On November 12th, English Heritage confirmed that the shop had been added to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, Grade II. Their reasons were:

"Rarity: once a common high-street shop, butchers are becoming increasingly rare survivals of a traditional commercial building type;

Architectural interest: a good-quality shop front and interior typical of the building type, and which retains the principal characteristic features of a butcher's shop;

Decorative scheme: the tiling to the exterior and interior of the shop, geometric paving and scrolled wrought-iron brackets are attractive and good-quality remnants of a comprehensive decorative scheme;

Intactness: a shop dating from the early C20 that retains an original frontage and much of its decorative scheme is an unusual survival, and despite changes to the interior the function of the business remains legible."

So, what's next? Any works to the shop will require Listed Buildings Consent, which provides much more stringent control than ordinary planning consent. We will still have to keep a watchful eye on subsequent applications. The owner might want to do the sensible thing and market the shop as a heritage butcher's. It would win him a lot of friends. As for us, wouldn't it be satisfying to have a good butcher's shop back again?

Drs Ruth and Dave Dawson.

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Burglary in a Dwelling	Unknown suspects have used a crowbar to jimmy open a sash window and gain entry. Once inside have made an untidy search of the bedroom and taken the property, leaving via same method.	DURN SFORD ROAD	04/10/2014	700	05/10/2014	1700
Burglary in a Dwelling	Between 1515 on 10/10/14 and 1330 on 11/10/14 an attempt to gain entry has been made on the victims front door. No entry has been gained but damage has been caused.	RYFOLD ROAD	10/10/2014	1515	11/10/2014	1330
Burglary in a Dwelling	Suspect is believed to have slipped the lock on the front door of the premises. Tidy search conducted and a bag containing various photographic equipment removed by suspect. Downstairs lights left on by suspect, front door open.	KENIL WORTH AVENUE	12/10/2014	100	12/10/2014	900
Burglary in a Dwelling	Privately owned 3 story unattended terrace property broken into between 1930 and 2130 on 17th OCT 14. Occupants away, scaffolding on front of building however entry via back door. Alarm activated, possibly disturbed suspects.	LAND GROVE ROAD	17/10/2014	1930	17/10/2014	2130
Burglary in a Dwelling	Property was secured at 2300 hours on 27/10/2014 as victim 1 went to bed. When he came downstairs at 0830 hours on 28/10/2014 he noticed that the back door was unlocked and that items had been taken.	HAYDON PARK ROAD	27/10/2014	2300	28/10/2014	830
Burglary in Other Buildings	By suspect climbing onto roof and attempting to smash window using a brick and making off on foot when unsuccessful.	KENIL WORTH AVENUE	11/10/2014	1110	11/10/2014	1115
Burglary in Other Buildings	Someone has entered the communal bike shed and stripped the bike.	DURN SFORD ROAD	08/10/2014	1900	09/10/2014	700
Burglary in Other Buildings	Items stolen off cycle at location.	DURN SFORD ROAD	08/10/2014	1230	16/10/2014	1230
Burglary in Other Buildings	Unknown suspects have entered via a rear lower ground window and has forced open various drawers, key cabinets and cash boxes, stealing a phone and cash.	WALDEMAR ROAD	19/10/2014	1645	20/10/2014	900
Burglary in Other Buildings	By suspect unknown forcing entry to pub whilst closed, then forcing open two fruit machines and taking cash from within.	DURN SFORD ROAD	29/10/2014	1	29/10/2014	850



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Criminal Damage To M/V	By suspects unknown causing criminal damage to victims vehicle by scratching the bodywork by method unknown at location shown.	ARTHUR ROAD	26/09/2014	1900	27/09/2014
Criminal Damage To M/V	When vehicle was driving along an unknown person threw a stone. Rear passenger side window smashed.	DURNSFORD ROAD	06/10/2014	1930	06/10/2014
Criminal Damage To M/V	By person unknown smashing the glass and casing of the wing mirror causing damage.	CROMWELL ROAD	19/10/2014	2045	20/10/2014
Criminal Damage To M/V	By suspect unknown breaking the wing mirror of the victims motor vehicle by the application of bodily force.	CROMWELL ROAD	19/10/2014	2145	
Criminal Damage To M/V	Victim stated that in between the times shown she had parked her car at the venue which is a free parking street. Victim stated that the street has an MOT Garage & believes staff from there have stabbed her 2 tyres.	COPPER MILL LANE	16/10/2014	830	16/10/2014
Criminal Damage To M/V	Vehicle has had damage caused to the drivers side window. No search carried out inside of vehicle. Second vehicle damaged and searched. Unknown if anything has been taken.	REGENT PLACE	30/10/2014	2300	
Criminal Damage To Other Bldg	By suspect unknown throwing lead object at glass pane at location, resulting in a crack to section of the pane.	HAYDONS ROAD	26/10/2014	2055	26/10/2014
Criminal Damage To Other Bldg	Unknown suspect refusing to tell post master what is in parcel, causing a verbal argument and suspect storming out of post office and kicking shop door (causing damage).	ARTHUR ROAD	27/10/2014	1050	27/10/2014
Other Theft	By person unknown taking milk off door step without consent.	HAYDON PARK ROAD	07/10/2014	400	11/10/2014
Other Theft	By the suspect taking fuel and making off without making payment.	PLOUGH LANE	21/10/2014	1435	
Other Theft	By person as yet unknown removing the keys to the house and car, which had inadvertently been left in the outside of the front door.	BRAEMAR AVE- NUE	20/10/2014	1730	20/10/2014
Other Theft	By unknown suspect stealing victims property by unknown means.	RYFOLD ROAD	20/10/2014	805	
Other Theft	Suspect has been seen on CCTV to take items and eat them without making any payment.	ENDEAVOUR WAY	25/10/2014	800	26/10/2014
Other Theft	By suspect seen on cctv to enter forecourt in a mercedes benz, go to pump 6, take diesel and driver seen to get back into vehicle and drive off out the forecourt making no attempt to pay for the fuel taken.	PLOUGH LANE	31/10/2014	1429	

Other Theft Person	The victim went to a car boot sale in Wimbledon, on returning home he discovered that his coin purse has been taken from his out jacket pocket.	PLOUGH LANE	17/09/2014	1045	17/09/2014	1045	17/09/2014	1400
Other Theft Person	The victim went to Wimbledon car boot sale and then a supermarket. On return to his home address he discovered that unknown suspects had slashed his trouser pockets and his lottery ticket had gone.	PLOUGH LANE	01/10/2014	1045	01/10/2014	1045	01/10/2014	1400
Other Theft Person	Victims bag taken from her shoulder by person(s) unknown but victim felt nothing.	PLOUGH LANE	15/10/2014	1300	15/10/2014	1300	15/10/2014	1310
Theft From M/V	Victims handbag stolen from car whilst she was doing a bootsale.	PLOUGH LANE	01/10/2014	1200	01/10/2014	1200	01/10/2014	1330
Theft From M/V	Police spoke to victim who advised two (2) of his hand-tools have been stolen from the back of his van.	HOME PARK ROAD	01/10/2014	1300	01/10/2014	1300	01/10/2014	1330
Theft From M/V	By suspect gaining entry to yard by cutting fence and then breaking into vehicle and removing tools.	WEIR ROAD	08/10/2014	1550	08/10/2014	1550	09/10/2014	800
Theft From M/V	By cutting a hole in the perimeter fence and gaining access to the open air car park and then breaking into 25 vehicles and stealing items from within.	WEIR ROAD	11/10/2014	1600	11/10/2014	1600	13/10/2014	700
Theft From M/V	By suspect taking the property as listed from underneath the vehicle.	WEIR ROAD	15/10/2014	945	15/10/2014	945	15/10/2014	1930
Theft From M/V	Suspects have taken number plates from victims cars.	HOME PARK ROAD	19/10/2014	2130	19/10/2014	2130	20/10/2014	7
Theft/Taking of M/V	By removing the vehicle when it's been parked on the street opposite the victim's home address.	KENILWORTH AVENUE	08/10/2014	1800	08/10/2014	1800	09/10/2014	500
Theft/Taking of M/V	Victim waking up to find his moped had been stolen overnight, which was chained to a lamppost outside his address overnight.	KENILWORTH AVENUE	08/10/2014	2200	08/10/2014	2200	09/10/2014	810
Theft/Taking of M/V	Suspect failing to bring back motor vehicle to Enter-prise. Suspect has made threats to damage motor vehicle.	DURNSFORD ROAD	10/10/2014	1	10/10/2014	1	29/10/2014	0
Theft/Taking of Pedal Cycles	Pedal cycle taken from bike rack by unknown suspects without victims knowledge or consent.	DURNSFORD ROAD	01/10/2014	900	01/10/2014	900	30/10/2014	2000



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Who would look after your young children if something happened to you and your partner?

Rather than leaving things to chance and having your children raised by someone not of your choosing or being subjected to a family tug of war, why not make a conscious decision to pick the right person to look after them. You can then choose someone who has the same values as you and someone your children know, trust and feel comfortable with.

It is simple to appoint a guardian in your Will. You can choose just one person to act as guardian but many people choose two, maybe a couple perhaps with a child or children of their own.

The guardianship clause in your Will would only come into effect on the death of all of those with parental responsibility for your children.

If you are separated or divorced, your wishes can be overridden by the surviving parent. The appointment of guardians in your Will is an expression of your wishes and can be open to challenge. However it may carry some weight and, at the very least, give guidance to the Courts as to your wishes.

You might like to write a Letter of Wishes to be kept with your Will stating your reasons for appointing your chosen guardians and guidance as to how you would like your children to be raised. Not only can this help your guardians bring up your children in the manner you would wish but it can be of further help should anyone seek to challenge your wishes.

Your children will thank you for caring.

Also a recent transaction involving a client highlighted the dangers of not using a solicitor when making your Will. The client had made a will with an unregulated Will writer which proved to be worthless due to the client's Will

including her deceased partner, clearly not her intention.

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Wimbledon Park Safer Neighbourhood Team

The Wimbledon Park Safer Neighbourhood Team is your local dedicated police team. We have seen many changes over the past year with new people coming and others leaving.

We are eager to meet the community we serve and to this end hold informal open surgeries once a month. If you have any concerns or would simply like to meet your local Policing team then please feel free to come along. We tend to change the location of the surgeries to try and ensure they are as accessible to as many people as possible. In addition there are contact points at the One O'clock club, Home Park Road, Wimbledon Park three times a week. Details of the times and dates can be found on the Metropolitan Police website www.met.police.uk/team/merton/wimbledonpark and posters at local shops and community centres. We also hold ward panel meetings four times a year where members can ask questions, challenge their local Police on local issues and set the ward policing priorities. We are currently looking to recruit new members so if you are interested then please get in touch. Our telephone number is 0208 7212452 or email WimbledonPark.SNT@Met.Police.uk.

The priorities for the Wimbledon Park local Policing team are burglary, motor vehicle crime and anti social behaviour.

Criminals who commit motor vehicle crime are typically opportunists who prey upon common mistakes that are easily preventable. By simply remembering to take all valuables out of your vehicle, or out of view, then you can protect yourself against theft. Part of our patrols involves identifying vulnerable vehicles and giving the owners basic crime prevention advice. You may have also seen crime prevention signs attached to lampposts throughout Wimbledon Park.

Recently we have seen a rise in theft of pedal cycles. As well as taking measures to catch those responsible we also plan to do regular bicycle marking and registering events. Details of these will also be published on the website and locally.

Your local officers are PC Roberts 203VW and PCSO Collar 7294VW

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HOMAGE TO THE BRICK

My visitors from abroad are always impressed by the overwhelming use of bricks as the dominant material in the built environment in our Wimbledon patch. Nothing remarkable in this observation as it is stating the obvious when looking at the local building stock through the Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian periods through to current days. Nor is this character confined to our area, as London as a whole and the South East of the country have naturally relied through history on the extensive use of clay as the main source of material for the building industry mainly in the form of bricks, wall tiles and roof tiles.

A great deal of the pleasure of walking through the Village, the Grid or any area of Wimbledon derives from the beauty generated by the variety of colour, texture and detailing of the brick buildings and walls that so strongly contribute to the urbanscape and that so easily mix with other vernacular materials such as natural stone, render, pargeting and wood, thus seamlessly conforming with the surrounding landscape the strong sense of place that identifies Wimbledon from other surrounding areas.

However, the humble brick, a truly sustainable by nature material through its lifetime, does not seem to receive much praise these days and more often than not is referred to in a derogatory manner such as “I’m facing a brick wall” to describe being confronted with an insurmountable problem. For me on the contrary, when I see a brick wall I sense something that has been hand made with its chromatic variety that never ceases to amaze me, even more when the light of a sunny day brings out new contrast between bricks, new shadows, new textures, new shades of colour.

The bricklayer, a craft that is slowly becoming scarce, selects the bricks one by one asking them to perform a function for life, perhaps lying in an English bond, perhaps in a Flemish bond; perhaps to work as a stretcher or perhaps as a header; or as part of soldier course or as part of arch spanning over a window or a gateway.

The client and the designer may have gone through a long process of selecting the appropriate brick for the task in hand considering a wide range of aesthetic and technical factors. Contextual factors influence the decision as much as budget constraints may do. Is the work in a sensitive conservation area? Does the project entail restoration work? Or is the work part of a commercial development where a contemporary language is called for?

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With its versatility, there is always an appropriate brick to meet the requirements. Handmade bricks may be necessary; machine made, wire cut; special shapes with their wonderful names, King and Queen closers, single or double bullnose, saddleback and half round copings, plinth headers, virtually a full range of shapes to resolve most design requirements.

However, when it comes to colour and texture the choice is more extensive yet. Multicoloured facing bricks whether in variations of red, yellow, brown or grey provide a fantastic scope for variation which combined with options for rugged or smooth sandfaced surfaces provide a wide palette of finishes to enhance the built environment.

The brick, this modest component of the building industry, generates the need of skilled labour, in that sense is demanding. Once built in a building or a wall, it then becomes virtually maintenance free. Over the years, it will develop a patina that records the passage of time and when the time comes for the building or wall to come down, then the brick will be recycled and ready to start a new life, and if that is not possible or required, the brick converted to rubble will find its way to where it came from as clay in the first place, from the earth, without contamination, as a friend returning home.

Contemporary architecture is gradually moving towards other lighter materials, in particular in high rise construction demanded by the increase in density in the main conurbations. Inherent to taller building construction there is a process of prefabrication of larger components where the traditional brick is rarely utilised. High rise construction although resolving many issues of density in the contemporary city generally develops anonymous architecture, international or globalised style exactly the opposite of what brickwork has done over the centuries.

So when I see a brick building, a brick wall, I salute them with respect and wish them a very long existence, and I hope that if you read this article, next time you go out for a walk through Wimbledon, look at the brickwork in more detail and enjoy how it has shaped your local built environment.

Mario L Avendano, RIBA

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Comment on the Wandle Valley Regional Park

By DeNica Fairman

I was shocked and deeply disappointed to find that the Wimbledon Park area now, in 2014, has no green spaces attached to the Wandle Valley Regional Park. This is despite the fact that Wimbledon Park itself is a Grade 2 Listed Capability Brown designed Heritage Park and has a tributary, Wimbledon Park Brook that flows directly into the Wandle River from Wimbledon Park Lake.

How has this been allowed to happen? In the 2010 All London GreenGrid Strategy (ALGG) the parks of Wimbledon & Wandsworth Commons were included in the WVRP which makes sense as huge expanses of Croydon's parklands are part of the WVRP. There were specific project recommendations such as Wimbledon Green Walkways and Improved Park/Industry Boundaries along the Durnsford Industrial Estate.

Also a Wimbledon Park Primary School link is suggested along Durnsford Rec. These

are all projects that the Wimbledon Park Residents Association has been trying to facilitate and campaign for over the last 20 years as the community has no access to the river at present. I quote from the 2010 ALGG : *"Removing or overcoming obstacles to access to the Valley from neighbourhoods such as Wimbledon Park should be prioritised."* How can we have gone from that, to the present situation where NO parks are included within the boundary in the Wimbledon Park area and NO access projects are listed. Wimbledon Park itself is a mere 75 metres from the Wandle River and Durnsford Recreation Ground is only 150 metres with direct access to the river bank if the Public Rights of Way are re-opened and the huge metal railings (erected illegally) are taken down.



It is disgraceful that Merton Council have let down this half of the borough so appallingly. I feel very strongly that the WVF and the WVRT need to try to redress this imbalance as a matter of urgency!

DeNica (apart from being our Membership Secretary) is an Executive Committee member of the Wandle Valley Forum.

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Wimbledon Society Exhibition in the Norman Plastow Gallery

The next exhibition at the Norman Plastow Gallery tells the story of shooting on Wimbledon Common. Other than shooting game, some of the first shots fired on the Common were in duels. As Wimbledon is so near London, combatants could ride out in the early morning, do their business and be back in town for breakfast. Some of the notable duellers were William Pitt, Lord Castlereagh and Lord Cardigan. Perhaps fortunately most of them do not appear to have been very good shots.

The Lord of the Manor, Earl Spencer was a founding member of the National Rifle

Association and offered the Common for the site of the first meeting in 1860. This inaugural meeting was opened by Queen Victoria firing the first shot, a scene dramatically illustrated by a print held by the museum.

The NRA meeting became very popular in the social calendar. Apart from the varied competitions, there were extra sporting events and musical entertainments, and this illustration hints at the lively less official night



Light Horse Volunteers review by King George III,
1798 on Wimbledon Common

life. The meeting grew in size and scope until, by the late 1870s, there were nearly 2,500 entrants for the Queen's Prize. The NRA flourished at Wimbledon for over 25 years before moving to Bisley; it was the end of an era.

Shots were still to ring out over the Common, but not for sport. It was used in both the World Wars, for training and defence.

The exhibition: 'Playing with Fire: the story of shooting on Wimbledon Common' runs from Saturday 17 January 2015 to Sunday 12 April 2015. It is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 2.30 – 5 pm and on Wednesdays from 11.30 am – 2.30 pm.



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Dealing with Traffic Problems

I received 10 comments on the proposal below for which I thank you. There were 4 votes pro and 4 votes anti the proposal (including my wife!!). In addition there were 2 votes from outside of the roads mentioned, one pro and one anti.

Unfortunately, due to technical problems, the autumn newsletters were not delivered to two important roads, Haslemere Avenue and Dawlish Avenue so the proposal is being repeated in this newsletter.

Dealing with Traffic Problems

Traffic can be a problem in the following roads (with their side roads):-

Ravensbury Terrace Ravensbury Road

Acuba Road Haslemere Avenue

Mount Road Gordondale Road

Lucien Road Havana Road

These roads are used as 'short cuts', especially during 'rush hours', and the through traffic can be a problem for local parents walking their children to Wimbledon Park School, and a problem for vehicles parked in any of the above roads.

This proposal, for comment only, is to create a gated barrier at two points; one where the road narrows at its current site at the junction of Haslemere Avenue with Mount Road and another where Ravensbury Road links with Merton Road.

All traffic will then be forced to use Durnsford Road/Merton Road and Penwith Road, and the junction with the Pig and Whistle.

Some traffic from the above roads will also be forced to use these roads, depending on their final destination.

Comments as soon as possible please to ivan104@btinternet.com

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News from Friends of Wimbledon Park

Clamping down on litter and dog mess

People who drop litter or don't clear up after their dog in Wimbledon Park could be facing a fine. A clampdown by Merton Council means specialist environmental crime enforcers from Kingdom Environmental Protection Services will be going into parks around the borough over the next few months. Anyone caught dropping litter or not clearing up after their dog will be liable to pay a fixed penalty notice of £75.


This is the latest initiative in the council's anti-litter campaign following the publication of its anti-litter code, and the installation of special gum and cigarette butt bins and high-tech smart bins in parks. Residents can now also report litter and fly-tipping through the free 'Love Clean Streets' smartphone app.

Local pupils have their say

FOWP is keen to get more young people engaged in the protection and enjoyment of Wimbledon Park. With this aim in mind, over the spring and summer we organised a survey of pupils at St Cecilia's School. More than 330 pupils responded to the poll, which was conducted on Survey Monkey. Key findings were as follows:

- Students resided mainly in Wandsworth (76%) and Merton (13%), with the remainder in other boroughs.
- 59% regarded Wimbledon Park as their local park. Next was Wimbledon Common (14%); King George's Park (10%); Richmond Park (7%); Putney Heath (5%); Durnsford Road Recreation Ground (1%); and Coronation Gardens (1%).
- 47% visited Wimbledon Park at least once a week, 25% at least once a month, 15% a few times a year, and 5% rarely. Only 1% never visited.
- Sport (208) was the most favoured activity, followed by general wellbeing (85), play (86), and study (8).
- The vast majority, 254, said they enjoyed themselves in Wimbledon Park, 25 didn't and 58 didn't know.
- 104 had learned something during their visit, 169 didn't and 69 didn't know whether they had learnt anything.
- Volunteering was supported by 67 students – enough to carry out projects, perhaps in conjunction with FOWP.
- The introduction of a 'trim trail' fitness route was supported by 171 and opposed by 71.
- 180 had noticed the landscapes in Wimbledon Park and 196 thought they should be preserved.

This feedback is extremely useful in helping us shape our proposals for activities and improvements to park facilities.



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