

Easter 2015

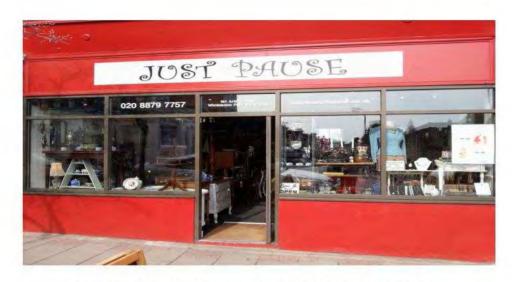


Stephen Hammond MP, Councillor Linda Taylor, Iain Simpson, WPRA Chairman

Vineyard Hill Road Surgery

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

Chairman's Report

Vineyard Hill Road Surgery

A great deal of ground has been covered since our last newsletter commented on the declared closure of the surgery at the end of March 2015. As many of you are now aware, the surgery will continue after all and with new doctors taking over from Drs Jones and Provost who are retiring. The combined forces of the Residents' Association, Stephen Hammond MP and our local Councillors, Oonagh Moulton, Janice Howard and Linda Taylor, proved persuasive and managed to convince NHS England that there was another alternative to the ones they had put to patients by letter and subsequently at the November 4th meeting last year.

In particular I would like to thank Paresh Modasia for his unstinting efforts on behalf of the community to ensure continuation of the surgery. Also Nigel Israel for his, always, sane and sensible advice.

You will find an article on Pages 22 & 23 which provides more background and information on the new doctors.

Greyhound stadium redevelopment

As you know the planning application was submitted in December, providing very limited time for residents, or anyone else for that matter, to respond to the huge amount of supporting paperwork. Fortunately due to the efforts of our local Councillors, common sense prevailed with the Council who recognised that much more time was needed for people to respond and the deadline was extended twice before closing in early February.

I would like to commend both Peter West and Michael Tyler of our committee who have done a huge amount of work to evaluate the application and construct our response. Details of our response are, as you know, on our website.

There have been other very important responses from significant bodies including Wandsworth Council who have objected to the scheme. In fact several thousand submissions have since been lodged with Merton Borough Council. They include a 15,000-signature petition from animal rights charity PETA which says it supports the AFCW proposal, provided it means the end of greyhound racing in Wimbledon. Several thousand emails have also been received from AFCW supporters from as far afield as Hawaii, Russia, Australia and South Africa, as well as local supporters, following a campaign by the club to rally backing from its own fans and the football community generally.

Hundreds of residents from Wimbledon and Earlsfield have also registered their objections to the plans as they currently stand, citing worries about the size of the development, its traffic and transport implications, flooding issues and lack of infrastructure planning.

Statutory bodies have responded to the application as follows:

Greater London Authority: The Mayor of London's Office says the AFCW/Galliard Homes scheme for Plough Lane contravenes the London Plan on numerous

grounds including lack of provision of play space for children, over-dense housing, accessibility problems, its 'isolated' position amid commercial developments, and poor transport provision.

<u>The Environment Agency</u>: Objects to the application, saying that it fails to: demonstrate that surface water can be managed; prove that it won't increase flood risk in the surrounding area; show that it helps reduce flood risk on the site (most of which is a highest risk category flood plain); indicate that sufficient flood storage compensation is provided in the development.

<u>Transport for London:</u> Points out that public transport services to the site are limited, cycle parking provision is insufficient, taxi drop-off points are missing, there is no coach management plan for drop-off/pick-up of away fans, travel data for match-day impact is inadequate and public transport assessment is incomplete.

NHS England: Rejects the application for failing to consult with local healthcare bodies over the demands of an increased population in the area, claiming to have carried out consultations with an organisation that doesn't actually exist, and using inaccurate GP ratio/population assumptions.

<u>Sport England</u>: Objects to the application because it fails to provide sufficient sporting facilities for residents of the proposed high-density housing development or the wider local community.

<u>Neighbouring Wandsworth Borough Council</u> has also officially objected to the application because in its current form it fails to properly address and resolve detrimental effects on local infrastructure, as well as the issues raised by statutory bodies listed above.

<u>Companies based at the Riverside Business Park</u>, located just behind the stadium on Riverside Road, have also registered their opposition, complaining that the applicants have failed to consult them on traffic and parking issues, which they deem inadequate in the current planning application. Wimbledon Art Studios, the large complex bordering the Plough Lane site, protests that the development plans would ruin them commercially for similar reasons, and Christophers Squash and Fitness Club says that AFCW/Galliard Homes' failure to provide parking for its visitors to the club would make it impossible to continue operating.

It has been suggested that reducing the amount of housing on the site would help alleviate many of these problems (parking, flooding, pressures on infrastructure etc). It remains to be seen whether Galliard Homes, which of course wants to maximise profitability of the site, is prepared to scale down its plans in order for AFC Wimbledon to get its stadium.

The applicants have gone away to fine-tune their application which, due to its complexity, looks unlikely to go before Merton's planning committee before the General Election on May 7.

The question is, will any changes to the application be enough to persuade Merton councillors to approve the flawed application as it stands, or will they take the Wandsworth approach and reject it due to local and statutory objections to its deficiencies? *lain Simpson*

A report from our MP Stephen Hammond

Vineyard Hill Road Surgery

Many local residents received a shock last October when they received a letter from NHS England that the Vineyard Hill Road Surgery was closing down. We were informed that after many years of dedicated service to the local community Drs Jones and Provost wished to retire and the options were find another site for a surgery in Wimbledon Park or register elsewhere. There were obvious problems with these solutions; why couldn't medical provision continue on the Vineyard Hill Road site? Many of the alternative surgeries were much further away than suggested in the letter and it was not clear that a list of over 5000 patients could easily be absorbed.

Together with WPRA and local Councillors Oonagh Moulton, Janice Howard and Linda Taylor, we arranged a public meeting to express local views to NHS England. A packed and heated meeting forcibly made points to NHS England stressing the value of a local surgery and raising issues with how the consultation was being handled. The response was disappointing as NHS England believed the current building unfit for modern requirements and there was not adequate alternative provision in the surrounding areas.

So on several early mornings in the period from November to January, a small group consisting of Iain Simpson, Paresh Modasia, Nigel Israel, Cllr Moulton and me could be seen in Arthurs in intense, and sometime tense discussion. Several options were explored including new sites, mergers and a new practice partnership.

After several weeks of rumours, it was possible to confirm that the existing partners had withdrawn their notice to terminate and wished to form a new practice partnership. The new GP partnership will continue to provide future provision of primary care, modernise the building and has some ambitious plans for new services. I hope that Dr Jeremy Harris, who runs surgeries elsewhere and has outlined his long term plans for the surgery, will be a great success. The news that GP services are still to be provided and serve the community is a real victory.

I know everyone in the local community will want to wish Drs Jones and Provost a long and happy retirement.

The Stadium

This redevelopment is causing great local concern with hugely differing views. I have worked with WPRA to ensure their concerns are heard. I have met both Paschal Taggart and AFC/Galliard to discuss their plans and the impact on the local community. It is clear that both applications have issues and problems.

I think the impact on the local community and on the social infrastructure must be resolved before any application can be passed. The AFC /Galliard application has

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proposed 603 units be built, some of which will be two and three bedroom. There is therefore likely to be pressure on local schools, local health and other local services. The Gap Rd/Haydons Rd junction is already regarded as one of the busiest in Merton and the extra development associated with the application would only mean that this junction would come under further strain. Moreover the pressure on local parking both on match days and throughout the year will be increased.

There are a number of issues that need to be resolved about the flooding risk. I have met Peter West and we have both written to the Environment Agency to seek reassurance about their classification of the site and what calculations they intend to undertake. As yet their response has been of a holding nature.

Like many people I am keen to see AFC back in the borough but not at the expense of local residents. The planning application will not be heard before May at the earliest but is also likely to be called in by the Mayor. Watch this space.

Vision for Wimbledon

Last Autumn I launched a Vision for Wimbledon which looked at not only what we need to do in the Town Centre but also in Raynes Park, Morden, the Village and Wimbledon Park. I believe vibrant local shopping areas and community places are vital to local communities.

If you have any ideas to improve Wimbledon Park, please email me on hammonds@parliament.uk

District Line

Many of us in Wimbledon Park rely on the District Line for our daily commute. In the last few years TfL have spruced up the station, taken some remedial action over the embankments and introduced new trains. All of this is very welcome. However there are still several important improvements and upgrades we need over the next few years. Firstly the performance of the line should be significantly improved when the sub surface signalling contract is not only awarded but started. I expect this to start by 2017 at the latest.

The new S stock trains are modern and can take up to 25% more people. They have been a great success on the Edgware Road branch. I want to see more of them on the City branch and shall be campaigning for this. Finally, whilst not their fault, it is time TfL put pressure on Network Rail Signal Centre at Wimbledon to get the indicator boards correct. I hope this will be resolved soon.

However one of the great pleasures of travelling through Wimbledon Park is the station staff, who are always helpful and cheerful. Many Thanks!

Finally, it has been an honour and privilege to serve you as your MP for the last ten years. I hope to be returned but whatever happens – thank you for your support.

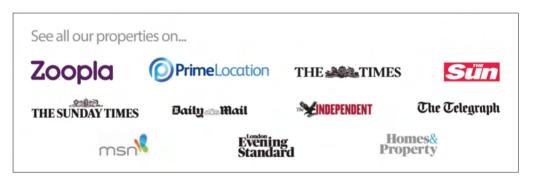
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CONSERVATION: THE MISSING CAST IRON RAILINGS

Walking a dog has several benefits not only on health grounds but at various other levels. In my case thanks to walking Jorge and Oscar I have been looking at the streets and buildings in the grid in some detail, and have learned to appreciate the richness of the design and detailing of what are essentially streets of relatively modest terraced houses.

Over the years since their construction at the beginning of last century, owners have randomly changed many things with varying degrees of success. New front doors, new pseudo Edwardian footpaths, the proliferation of velux type windows at roof level, new gates and street railings, etc, etc.

In my walks it puzzled me though, why so consistently in some streets the old original cast iron railings had all disappeared, no random change here, all of

these are gone. I could see the signs of how and where these original railings were anchored to the dwarf wall beneath, but as to the rest of the design, there are no remains at all.

However, one day with my four legged companion I discovered one remaining example, a very nice one too, which can be seen in the photograph attached to this note. However, I will not mention where this is



as this remains for readers to discover themselves.

When were these railings removed, was it during WW1 or WW2? If this was the case, why in other areas of London such as Richmond, Belgravia, Hampstead, have the cast iron railings survived unscathed? Surely other more knowledgeable readers can fill in this gap.

TOWN PLANNING: A COMPUTARISED MODEL FOR WIMBLEDON?

The advent of the use of computer aided design and development of associated hard and software has enabled a real revolution in the design of new ar-



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chitectural projects, tested for various environmental conditions at almost embryonic stage, and presented to clients, future users, local authorities and you, the public.

Only 45 years ago, the presentation of computerised drawings was incipient and concentrated at a few architectural practices that were in a position to afford the new technology that concentrated mainly on two dimensional drawings. The typical perspectives that illustrated the schemes were prepared by special 'illustrator artists' that in many cases had no particular formal training in architectural representations and even enjoyed the liberty of sometimes altering the proportion of the proposed buildings to make them look right.

Today, on the contrary, computer generated images of the most complicated schemes become available to the designers practically at the inception of the project and to produce 3-dimensional models for presentation purposes are a sub-product of the process of simply drawing up a scheme; these models can be simple, accurate, fast to produce and inexpensive in the context of the overall proposals.

Developers do this lavishly when presenting large schemes in their quest to persuade clients, public and local authorities alike of the merits of the scheme. This is fine, except that in most cases the proposals concentrate entirely on the site and show very little about how the scheme fits with its surroundings and context.

One wonders how long we need to wait until the local planning authorities develop a simple computerised model of the main development areas in the Borough so that when new substantial proposals are lodged for planning consent, a computerised model of the proposals can be easily inserted in this simple virtual model to enable all interested parties to ascertain in an un-biased manner how the proposal will sit in its context, and above all, how the proposal will physically improve the local environment.

Who would pay for this basic model? The money saved in processing planning applications by developers and local authorities alike would pay for such model in months.

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Allegation	Method	Address	Date from	T i m e from	Date to	T i m e to
Burglary in a Dwelling	Victims front door has been tampered with. The handle on the outside of the door having been removed, locking mechanism also damaged.	LEOPOLD ROAD	31/01/2015	006	04/02/2015	2000
Burglary in Other Buildings	Entry may of been gained by the alleyway to the rear of the premises. There are marks on the left door of the wooden shed.	ASHCOMBE ROAD	21/02/2015	2300	22/02/2015	800
Burglary in Other Buildings	Victim has 2 racing bikes kept in a locked shed outside the address. During a 5 hour time period the padlock was cut from the lock housing and removed and a chain securing the bikes was also cut and bikes removed.	BRAEMAR AVENUE	08/02/2015	1	08/02/2015	500
Burglary in Other Buildings	Between 2300hours on 25/02/15 and 0730hours on 26/02/15 entry has been gained to the shed via the garden gate which were both left unlocked, Items taken from within shed.	HAVANA ROAD	25/02/2015	2300	26/02/2015	730
Burglary in Other Buildings 9	By unknown suspect gaining entry via a first floor rear window. Once inside searching and taking tools from within before making off through a rear door to garden.	LANDGROVE ROAD	20/02/2015	1700	23/02/2015	600
Criminal Damage To a Dwelling	By suspect banging on a window, causing it to crack.	PLOUGH LANE	07/02/2015	2115	07/02/2015	2120
Criminal Damage To M/V	Victim states that between times sepcified, unknown suspect has used a piece of dried concrete and scored the side of his private vehicle at location. Damage runs entire length of nearside.	PITT CRESCENT	01/02/2015	2200	02/02/2015	1000
Criminal Damage To Other Bldg	Suspect punched window causing criminal damage.	PLOUGH LANE	20/02/2015	2351		
Other Theft	By unknown person taking the victims mobile phone from a table in the pub whilst he was watching football.	DURNSFORD ROAD	31/01/2015	1830	31/01/2015	2200
Other Theft	By suspect taking contents from a plastic bag containing a selection of jewellery, watches, which fell out of a gap in the seated area of a wheel chair.	PLOUGH LANE	08/02/2015	1020	08/02/2015	1040
Other Theft	By unknown suspect obtaining victims Nationwide cash card and bank book at unknown time and location whilst items were in the post and using them to obtain cash from victims account.	STROUD ROAD	04/02/2015	1200	05/02/2015	1200
Theft From M/V	By person unknown taking a quantity of tools from back of open van.	DORA ROAD	17/02/2015	1000		

Theft From M/V	Entry gained into victims vehicle by person(s) unknown and SATNAV taken . No signs of forced entry.	MELROSE AVENUE	31/01/2015	-	01/02/2015	1200
Theft From M/V	Unknown suspect has smashed rear window of vehicle and stolen money inside the car.	MOUNT ROAD	20/02/2015	2300	21/02/2015	630
Theft From M/V	Persons unknown have siphoned approx 50 litres of fuel out of two parked and unattended artic cabs.	WEIR ROAD	06/02/2015	1930	09/02/2015	530
Theft From M/V	Approx 60 litres of diesel has been siphoned out of artic lorry petrol tank.	WEIR ROAD	11/02/2015	1930	12/02/2015	530
Theft/Taking of M/V	Victim was delivering parcels. After parking the vehicle at the location to make a drop off, when he returned his vehicle had been stolen. Victim was still in possession of keys indicating security bi pass.	ARTHUR ROAD	25/02/2015	1600		
Theft/Taking of M/V	Victim has parked motor cycle on the street. It had minimal security and is believed to have been stolen overnight.	REVELSTOKE ROAD	21/02/2015	1830	22/02/2015	1230



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REVIEWING YOUR LEGAL PAPERWORK

At this time of year, people start thinking about spring-cleaning their homes and preparing their gardens for spring planting. Now is also a good time to review your legal paperwork.

Wills

If you have a Will, it would be sensible to review it to ensure that it is fully up-to-date and continues to reflect your wishes. For example, if you have had children since you made your Will, it would be wise to appoint guardians to look after them in the event of your death. Also, not many people realise that their Will is automatically revoked by marriage, unless it is made in contemplation of that marriage.

For those of you who have recently separated, you may no longer wish to leave your assets to your ex-partner and therefore it would be advisable to re-draft your Will. It is not uncommon for a former partner to receive the bulk of the estate instead of the children of the deceased simply because the deceased never got around to updating their Will.

If you have not yet made a Will, then you may wish to consider making one so as to leave your estate in order. As a recent Daily Mail articled stated there has been a huge increase of 76% in disputes over estates in the last year where people have not made Wills.

Powers of Attorney

Some years ago you may have appointed an attorney under an Enduring Power of Attorney ("EPA") or under a Lasting Power of Attorney ("LPA"). Have you checked recently whether your attorney is still willing and able to act on your behalf, particularly if their own circumstances have changed? Surprisingly, it has been known for an attorney to forget that they have been appointed or even to decide that they do not want to do it anymore – this is becoming increasingly common. Have you separated from your partner whom you had also appointed as your attorney or have you become estranged from them? Now is the time to review the appointment to see whether it will still work for you and, if not, you may wish to revoke it and/or put another in its place.

Perhaps the Power has failed because one of the attorneys appointed jointly with another/others has died. This could only happen where the appointment was made for attorneys to act jointly as opposed to jointly and severally.

That is why having a Lasting Power of Attorney is important. Whilst a Will defines how your assets are distributed when you die, a Lasting Power of Attorney is a document that you prepare, while you are mentally capable, to appoint someone of your choice to act for you should you become incapable of managing your own affairs. There are two types of LPA, one deals with your property and financial affairs, e.g. selling the family home and managing bank accounts; and the other deals with your health and welfare decisions, e.g. making arrangements for a suitable care home or deciding upon medical treatment.

If you have been appointed as an attorney for someone under an EPA, you have a duty to register the document if you believe that the donor has become or is becoming mentally incapable of managing their affairs.

If you require any further information then please have no hesitation in contacting Andrew F. Hill at McGlennons Solicitors.

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Vineyard Hill Road Surgery - A successful operation!

I recently met with Dr Jeremy Harris, lead partner, and some of his colleagues at The Groves Medical Centre, New Malden. Present were Beverley Snell, Practice Manager, Vince Grippaudo, Group Medical Director and Trevor Fuller, Business Operations Manager. Having been in email contact with Dr Harris and received confirmation from him about the success of negotiations, I was keen to meet the new team and hear about their plans.

Dr. Jeremy Harris is the lead partner of the medical practice that runs The Groves Medical Centre in New Malden and one other, The Vineyard Surgery in Richmond. I also understand that plans are under way to merge with another in Hinchley Wood.

He and his partners will be entering into a partnership with Drs Provost and Jones as of the 10th March. They have signed a 25 year lease with Assura plc which has purchased the building from Drs Jones and Provost. Assura plc, according to its website, is a 'long term investor and developer of primary care property'.

Currently new doctors are being recruited but, from the 1st April, there will be three doctors from existing practices sharing the patient list while permanent staff are recruited. All patients who have, in the interim, transferred to other surgeries are being urged to re-register. They can do this by simply completing a form which is available from the surgery or on the surgery website.

Plans for the surgery include internal reorganisation and redecoration to comply with current DDA, CQC and infection control standards and additional patient services.

The new doctors are very enthusiastic about taking over the surgery and plan to hold some open evenings to meet patients informally. Beverley Snell, who was the practice manager for Vineyard Hill, is now the overall practice manager for the partners and will continue to oversee the surgery. Some of the surgery staff have remained and will continue, but some have sadly already left due to the uncertainty. The Partners have fully recruited and filled all administrative and nursing posts.

It is unclear at the time of writing in what capacity or for how long the retiring partners will remain active in the practice.

It appeared to be an insurmountable mountain to climb when local residents were first faced with the letter from NHS England in October last year setting out, rather starkly, two choices - either procurement of another surgery or dispersal of patients to other surgeries - and the seemingly implacable position put forward by David Sturgeon and William Cunningham Davis at the meeting with residents on the 4th November. It was clear to everyone that in the time frame given, procurement was going to be extremely difficult to achieve.

NHS England was only given six months' notice (the minimum) that the current doctors were retiring at the end of March 2015. This obviously put NHS England under pressure to move quickly towards a solution which does explain why patients had so little notice of the change and time to react.

The subsequent campaign carried out by the Residents' Association, Stephen Hammond MP and Councillors was very effective in convincing both Sturgeon and Cunningham Davis that there was another possible avenue open to them. By January they were both taking a much more open-minded view and were prepared to consider a merger between new doctors and the current doctors – subject to certain provisos. However, a priority for this to succeed was the purchase of the building from the doctors.

Since Jeremy Harris's attention was first drawn to the situation in Vineyard Hill Road Surgery in late January, there has followed a flurry of activity to put plans in place to take on the surgery. Very little time was available to put everything in place before the end of March. It is a tribute to both the smart business approach of Dr Harris and his partners and the strong support from NHS England in the form of David Sturgeon and William Cunningham Davis that exchange of contracts on the building took place; Drs Jones and Provost withdrew their notice to cancel their NHS contract and new agreements have been signed to enable the surgery to continue in new hands.

We wish Drs Jones and Provost well in their retirement and look forward to a continuation and expansion of services at the Vineyard Hill Road Surgery.

The patient is now fit and well.

Well done everybody!

lain Simpson

Wimbledon Park Safer Neighbourhood Team

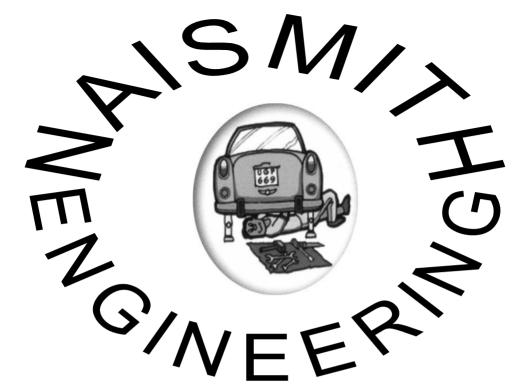
As the dedicated ward officer for Wimbledon Park I would like to raise the issue of pedal cycle theft in the area. Towards the end of last year Wimbledon Park Ward was suffering an unusual increase in the theft of push bikes. Initially this seemed to be concentrated around the Plough Lane part of the ward. As we took action to resolve this we quickly realised that the problem had spread throughout the ward, in particular to the Grid and Summerstown. We employed various crime prevention initiatives such as static Police Officers, overt CCTV camera's, poster campaigns and bike marking and registering events. I am pleased to report that we have now seen an 85% reduction in pedal cycle theft over the past few months.

Pedal cycle theft does however still remain an issue in Wimbledon Park, Merton Borough and throughout London. Many thefts of pedal cycles occur from small sheds that residents have at the front of their house and from garden sheds at the back. So please remember to secure your bike and if possible lock it to a permanent structure. Once a month we hold Police Surgeries. At these we also offer a free bike marking and registering service. The next Police Surgeries will be held on Wednesday 29th April between 3 and 5 p.m. and Wednesday 27th May between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., both at St Luke's Church, Ryfold Road, Wimbledon Park. I appreciate many of you work during the week and therefore would find it difficult to attend. In addition to the monthly surgeries we will be holding bike marking and registering events at our Police base in Wimbledon Park on Home Park Road at various weekends throughout the next few months. Details listed below. You can visit www.bikeregister.com if you wish to register your bike's frame number. For any other property it's www.immobilise.com

Another matter of note we dealt with in Wimbledon Park Ward recently was a failure to pay for fuel at the Shell Petrol Station on Plough Lane. In isolation this may seem like quite a low level matter. However checks on the vehicle concerned revealed that it had been involved in seven other matters of theft of fuel over the past 2 years at various locations throughout south west London. Two of these were in Wimbledon. The driver was traced, arrested and admitted all of the thefts which led to eight outstanding crimes being solved.

Motor vehicle crime also remains a significant problem in Wimbledon Park. You may have seen some crime prevention signs around the ward warning motorists to take all valuable and visible belongings out of their vehicles; a simple, yet very effective, form of crime prevention advice. Speaking with a resident of Stuart Road recently I floated the idea of placing these signs around the roads of the grid. I understand that some residents may not be in favour as the signs are quite large. I would be grateful if people could get in touch and let me know their thoughts as I think they are a useful tool in the fight against motor vehicle crime. Our email address for this or any other matter is:

WimbledonPark.SNT@met.police.uk or you can call 020 8721 2452.



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Wimbledon Park Neighbourhood Policing team is made up of three officers. Sergeant Bourne PS 4VW, PC Paul Roberts 203VW. PCSO Collar 7294VW has recently moved to Wimbledon Village ward. PCSO Matthews 7173VW has recently joined the team.

Upcoming bike marking events.

Saturday 18/04/2015 4-6pm Police base, Wimbledon Park, Home Park Road Saturday 09/05/2015 4-6pm Police base, Wimbledon Park, Home Park Road Sunday 21/06/2015 4-6pm Police base, Wimbledon Park, Home Park Road

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ARCHITECTURE: OPEN HOUSE LONDON

Some considerable time has elapsed since the last Open House London took place, September 20th and 21st, 2014, but I do not think it is too late to thank those involved that made this yearly event a great success.

Several interesting buildings were open to the public on those days in Merton,

and our area in Wimbledon was no exception. I for one took the opportunity to visit various excellent private residential buildings to which one would not otherwise have access, but on the day we had the benefit of being shown around by owners and in some cases by those participating in the design of some fine examples.

Some of the residential buildings were the subject of carefully executed refurbishments and sympathetic extensions fully respectful of their context. Others were total new



buildings innovatively designed with the emphasis on sustainability.

I think this an excellent exercise that helps to enhance the debate about the quality of our built environment, so necessary when the pressure for new residential developments in Merton is rising all the time.

So my thanks to those organisers, owners and designers that gave their time to this wonderful initiative and I look forward to Open House London 2015.

Mario Avendano RIBA

Open House London is the capital's largest annual festival of architecture and design. Now in its 23rd year, it is a city-wide celebration of the buildings, places, and neighbourhoods where we live and work. The dates for 2015 are September 19th & 20th. Go to www.openhouselondon.org.uk for more information



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News from Friends of Wimbledon Park

Tercentenary of Capability Brown

We now have evidence of wide community support for celebrating the tercentenary of landscape designer Capability Brown in 2016. Getting such backing was a condition of Merton Council's support for an event or project to mark the occasion, and we hope this will now be forthcoming. As a next step, we will be setting up a sub-committee; do contact us if you would like to get involved.

Have your say on events in the park

FOWP has been working hard to get local people's views listened to by Merton Council when it comes to organised events in the park. We have built a good relationship with its event manager, who takes residents' opinions seriously. If you want to give feedback about an event in the park – whether positive or negative — you can fill in a consultation form, which will shortly be available on our website. We will collate the feedback and make sure the Council is made aware of it. So far there are three events due to take place in Wimbledon Park in 2015:

Easter children's fair: 28 March to 12 April (proposed)

Food festival: Saturday 29 August to Monday 31 August (proposed)

Bonfire night fireworks display: Thursday 5 November

To spray or not to spray?

You may have noticed that dead patches of grass appear around trees, fences, bins and elsewhere in the park at certain times of year. This is because of herbicide spraying by Merton Council. While we appreciate that many people want to see the park kept tidy, spraying with weedkiller indiscriminately wipes out many wildflowers and other beneficial plants. We would like to get a Green Flag Award for Wimbledon Park, and Green Flag guidance recommends using better alternatives to spraying – such as mowing at the right time. We will be discussing this issue with local parks officers.

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Our local bat population

Wimbledon Park is home to a surprising number of bat species: six at the last formal count, in 2005. These are: *Pipistrellus pygmaeus, Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, noctule, serotine, Daubenton's and brown long-eared. The author of the survey noted: "The watery, relatively dark and undisturbed nature of the park at its northern aspect creates a foraging haven for at least six species of bat. This is considerably more species than can be found on many local nature reserves in a whole season of recording." The best time to observe the bats is at dusk, particularly around the lake and near to the trees surrounding the athletics stadium.

www. friendsofwimbledonpark.org.uk

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The successful applicant should live within easy and practical reach of the Museum (22 Ridgway, SW19 4QN) bearing in mind that parking locally can be a problem. (The Museum can arrange for parking permits to be available at a cost of £1.50 a half day.) He/she should be prepared to visit the Museum one or more times a week to check the above areas and also to respond to requests for a visit to deal with any problem that may arise unexpectedly.

If you are interested in this position contact the Museum Committee Chairman, Cassandra Taylor at casskent@talktalk.net.

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Volunteer Committee Secretary

The Wimbledon Society is a Civic Society and Charity. A voluntary position has arisen as Secretary to the Planning Committee.

The post involves minute taking at monthly meetings, circulating these to the Committee, preparing Agendas and reporting the Committee's activities to the Society's Executive Committee bi-monthly.

The Committee meetings take place on Mondays between 7 and 9.30pm at the Wimbledon Museum (22 Ridgway SW19).

The time commitment is about three days per month.

IT and secretarial skills are required, plus ability to work as a team within the Committee's structure. Knowledge of the Wimbledon area would be an advantage.

Interested applicants should contact the Committee's Chairman, John Mays, john@themayses.co.uk, 07850 69 77 23 to discuss this opportunity with full details of their experience.

PUBLICATIONS OFFICER - Job Description

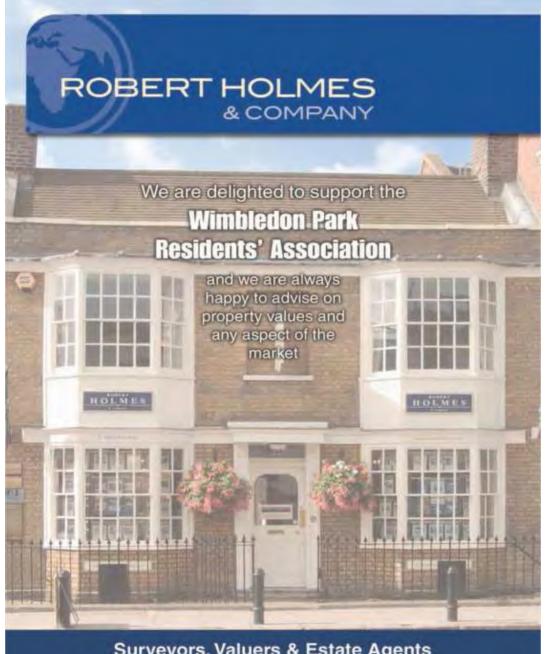
To maximise sales of books, maps and cards at the museum, fairs, to trade and by mail order.

To control inventory of publications, plan reprints and consult on new publications. To administer the Print-on-Demand account, ISBNs and legal deposit.

To organise the physical stock at the museum.

To provide necessary paperwork for Duty Officers to record sales. To maintain sales records and provide financial information to Museum Committee Treasurer.

If you are interested in this position contact the Museum Committee Chairman, Cassandra Taylor at casskent@talktalk.net.



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Front Garden Awards 2015

Do you have a front garden, however large or small? Attractive front gardens help to enhance the neighbourhood and we will again be seeking the best in Wimbledon Park for our annual awards.

A team of local residents will be looking at all gardens visible from the street to nominate their favourites. From these, a panel of judges will choose the best in the following categories:

Best Summer Interest Garden
Best All-year Interest Garden
Best Environmentally Sustainable Garden

Judging will take place on the following dates:

Preliminary round: 25 June – 1 July

Final selections: Sunday 5 July

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

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

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

Contact Jill Farmer

Tel: 020 8947 6572; email: jill.y.farmer@gmail.com

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Wandle Valley Forum

The Wandle Valley Forum News Update Issue No. 12 can be viewed soon on the WPRA Website. The following items will be discussed in this issue. Items marked * are especially relevant to the WPRA Members:-

A New Perspective from a true Wandle enthusiast A word from our new Forum Chair – Tony Burton

Beddington Incinerator – it's not over yet! Stop the Incinerator campaign looks at next steps

*Wandle Valley Regional Park boundaries
Why the boundary is where it is and the significance of being in the Park

This item includes a major piece by DeNica regarding the failure to include the Durnsford Recreation Ground and Wimbledon Park within the boundary of the Wandle Valley Regional Park

Wandle Trail to link with Thames Path Wandsworth groups plead for safeguarded link to Thames Path to be opened

Canons, Mitcham – Merton's £4m Heritage Lottery Award Total restoration of The Canons and its historic grounds

Hackbridge Ecology Park next steps

Now pre-feasibility funding is in – community can decide on features

Council Parks Services – privatise, merge or stay put? Merton is privatising and Wandsworth merging with Richmond

Team Wandle – Speed volunteering

A Groundwork project for instant volunteering or volunteer-as-you-go

Wandle Valley Regional Park achievements to date Notable progress - check the list

*New Wimbledon stadium development What impact if AFC Wimbledon returns to Plough Lane?

A disappointing piece which fails to emphasize any of the positive aspects of the return of AFC Wimbledon to its former 'home'

*Melanie's Spring & Summer Walking Programme Local walk organiser Melanie Nunzet knows the WVRP's secret spots Good walks accessible by WPRA residents generally via the Tram Line Ivan Scott. lvan104@btinternet.com

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Committee members planting Walnut trees in Durnsford Recreation Ground

Dealing with Traffic Problems

Regarding the proposal for the creation of 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.

I received a total of 20 comments on the proposal, 2 from outside of the roads mentioned and 8 votes pro and 8 votes anti the proposal.

On the basis of a 'draw' I will not take this any further. Many thanks to those of you who commented.

Ivan Scott. ivan104@btinternet.com



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lain Simpson - Chairman & Newsletter	56 Home Park Road	SW19 7HN
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