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# **Summer/Autumn edition 2015**

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**Editorial help needed. Contact Iain Simpson on 020 8947 1301  
email: [iainsimpson@imi-consulting.com](mailto:iainsimpson@imi-consulting.com)**

## **Chairman's Report**

### **Vineyard Hill Road Surgery**

I have been in touch recently with Jeremy Harris, senior partner at the surgery. I understand the list size is gently growing but not as quickly as they would like. The present number of patients is around 4000. Further, I understand that all appointed doctors are now in place. These are: Dr Sabeeha Shakoor, Dr Peter Milton and Dr Lucy Weeks. These are backed up by Dr James Gibbs, Dr Vince Grippaudo and Dr Jeremy Harris.

They have started opening on Saturday mornings (several per month).

The refurbishment of the building has been delayed because the surgery has had no communication from NHS England since April when the surgery was promised money towards refurbishment. Apparently they have been unable to get hold of William Cunningham Davis. As a result they have given up chasing for the time being and will nevertheless start work on Friday 28th August.

I understand the website will be updated shortly.

### **Greyhound stadium redevelopment**

We are aware that revised plans were submitted to the Council by Galliard/AFC Wimbledon in July (these were not made public) and that the Council planners are waiting for responses to a wide range of questions they have posed to Galliards as a result of the original application made last year and the extensive objections that have since been raised. (This was covered in some detail in my last report).

The Council have advised that once they have all the information they require, there will be a further consultation period of 3 weeks (the statutory period), allowing time for everyone to study the new plans and other new documents that will be listed on their website. Our last communication from the Planning Department in early August suggested that the re-consultation period would be launched fairly soon. At the time of writing there was no sign of that having happened.

We responded to the Planning Department and suggested that, on the basis of their experience when the application was first made and the ensuing clamour from various quarters, they should extend the consultation period due to the size and complexity of the application, the fact that August is a prime holiday month meaning a number of key people would be away, they should not launch any re-consultation before the end of the month, and at the same time the period of consultation be extended to at least 5 weeks. Whether they will take any notice of our suggestions remains to be seen.

### **Crossrail 2**

This will be, if it actually goes ahead, possibly the most significant development for Wimbledon since the introduction of the railway. Crossrail 1 continues to progress well and the engineering of the tunnels is as fascinating as it is impressive. The following email was sent recently to all those who have elected to be kept in

touch:

**'We would like to update you on the recent Crossrail 2 developments.**

**The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, has recently announced the creation of a Crossrail 2 Growth Commission. The Commission, which will be chaired by Sir Merrick Cockell, will work with Boroughs and key stakeholders along the route to align Crossrail 2 with local plans for the area. (see press releases on [www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk))**

**Crossrail 2, a joint project between Transport for London and Network Rail, is one of the most significant new infrastructure opportunities for the UK in the next twenty years. By 2030, the population of London is expected to reach 10 million people and Crossrail 2 is necessary if we are to accommodate and support this growth. By linking homes and jobs, Crossrail 2 would help grow the economy and improve the quality of life for those who live and work in London and the South East.**

**Since March, when Patrick McLoughlin MP, the Secretary of State for Transport confirmed the safeguarding for the proposed Crossrail 2 route, we have been working to develop designs for the tunnelled section of the railway, as well as the branch lines at either end of the Crossrail 2 route.**

**We welcome the feedback we've had from you to date. We are currently preparing for a consultation in the autumn where we will provide more detail on the scheme and stations. We will update you when the consultation launches and look forward to hearing your views then.'**

**For the latest information on Crossrail 2, go to [www.crossrail2.co.uk](http://www.crossrail2.co.uk).**

### **New School or Football stadium?**

**A couple of interesting letters have appeared in the Guardian recently regarding the idea that the Greyhound Stadium site should have been given more serious consideration as a site for a new secondary school . The fact is that there is a dearth of senior schools in this part of the borough and I am aware that our Councillors were campaigning some time ago for a new school but not aware that the Stadium was ever suggested as a possibility. According to a recent article by Becky Middleton, the Council did consider the Stadium as a school site but turned it down due to planning difficulties, the proximity of an electrical sub station and flooding issues. Clearly these were not immediate obstacles for the Council when it came to the proposed development by Galliard Homes/AFC.**

**I am not aware that our local Councillors were involved in any recent consultation regarding the potential site for a new secondary school. A letter published recently by Cllr David Dean gave further support to the idea that the Stadium would be a good choice. I quote from the letter:-**

**'Yet in Wimbledon Park/Trinity/Abbey and Colliers Wood wards there are no senior schools. If the number of children by ward averages out across Wimbledon, it is clear that the new school should be sited in the north-east of the borough. Personally, I believe the best site for the new school is the dog track on **Plough Lane**.**



This can easily fit an outstanding football stadium, some flats and a school. Schools and football stadiums are used at different times and some facilities can be shared. What better than a new school in Plough Lane that is utterly necessary for the town rather than 600 tightly packed flats without infrastructure that are not.'

Clearly, this topic has attracted considerable interest among local residents as you will see from the letter on page 38.

### ***Haslemere Industrial Estate - redevelopment***

On Friday 11 and Saturday 12 September First Base will be holding a second public exhibition on their proposals for the future of the Haslemere Industrial Estate and invite the local community to attend. The exhibition is an opportunity for local residents to see the early designs and provide First Base with thoughts on the scheme before they come back to show you their final scheme later in the year. First Base's current proposals include the creation of new homes, employment space and public amenity areas on the site. The project team will be on hand to answer any questions that you might have.

First Base held their first exhibition in June to introduce the team and to understand local residents' ideas and issues. This was one of several consultation events that First Base has held as part of their ongoing commitment to engaging with local residents, businesses, groups and councillors. The exhibition was well-attended and First Base received helpful and encouraging feedback. Discussions with Merton Council will also continue over the coming months about their ideas and aspirations for the site.

The next public exhibition will run from 3.30pm to 7.30pm on Friday 11 September and 10.30am to 1.30pm on Saturday 12 September. They will be held at the St Barnabas Church, 146 Lavenham Rd, London SW18 5EP. For more information on the proposed development, you can visit the project's website at [www.firstbase-haslemere.london](http://www.firstbase-haslemere.london) or contact a member of the team on 020 3697 4344 or [haslemere@fourcommunications.com](mailto:haslemere@fourcommunications.com).

### ***Swan lake - Wimbledon Park***

The pictures on the front cover reflect the very large number of mute swans that have taken up residence in recent years. Dave Dawson, who is a well known local resident and long-time observer of the Park and its inhabitants, has written about this in the latest edition of the Wimbledon Society newsletter. Apparently, for thirty years until 2014 there was only one breeding pair of mute swans on the lake. However, in October 2014, 25 birds were seen and during the winter of 2014/15 the number increased in February to 70 birds. A notable increase in the coot population has also taken place over a similar period. Dave's conclusion as to the most likely reason for this is the increase in the amount of submerged waterweed (rigid hornwort) over the period as these two waterfowl species are known to specialise in this kind of weed.

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# ARTHUR'S CAFÉ

(At Wimbledon Park Hall, 170 Arthur Road)

We have always wanted to become an intrinsic part of the Wimbledon Park community and therefore I am pleased to report that, since we commenced trading 9 months ago, the business continues to grow alongside the success of the Centre.

Our opening hours are 7am-6pm Monday to Friday, 8am-5pm on Saturday and Sundays are going to be reserved for something slightly different

Our menu is still centred on quality products with all hot meals, pastries and cakes prepared on site. We also serve a large variety of hot and cold sandwiches, salads, ice creams and smoothies.

A full range of coffees, teas and soft drinks is available to have in or take away.

We cater for Events both within the Centre and outside including providing a one-off or regular lunch delivery service to businesses in the area.

We are currently exploring holding special evening events at which local artist and craft workers can display their work or local musicians can entertain. Pop up cinema is also under consideration. Ideas will be welcome. Please enquire with us if you would like to use this opportunity.

I look forward to welcoming you in the near future.

Yasmin



## ABUNDANCE FRUIT DAY

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Sept, 11am – 2pm

St Mark's Church garden (behind Wimbledon Library)

Abundance collects surplus fruit and makes sure it doesn't get wasted. Some of it is made into puddings and jam, and some is passed on to local charities providing food for people in need, e.g. the Drop-In Centre for the homeless in Kingston Rd.

Fruit Day is our fund raising event - and is an opportunity to taste the fruits of our efforts! So please come and buy homemade jam, chutneys, cakes, ultra-fresh juice from the fruit press, enjoy the music and games for children and adults. Entry is FREE, so put it in your diary!

For more information, please contact [abundancewimbledon@gmail.com](mailto:abundancewimbledon@gmail.com) or tel. Joyce 8946 3750/Juliet 8946 2514. See our website [www.abundancewimbledon.com](http://www.abundancewimbledon.com)



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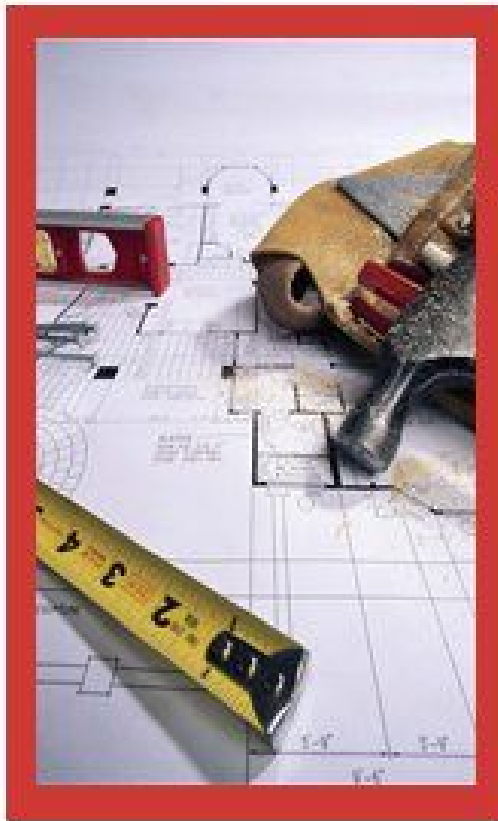
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## **CONSERVATION, whose task is it anyway?**

Firstly in relation to the article on Conservation published in the Easter Newsletter, I wish to thank local resident Mrs J G Priston for providing first-hand knowledge that the cast iron garden railings and gates were removed together with other spare metal items during the Second World War. Mrs Priston was a resident then and she recalls when this happened as part of the war effort to produce more guns, planes, etc.

Another interesting local case of preservation of the original garden railings, can be observed along Melrose Avenue for the first two blocks down from Arthur Road, where all houses totalling about 50 had a distinctive inverted half round rendered low wall with a very nice set of varying in height timber railings on top. When I came to live in this area over 25 years ago, there were several of these railings in place, today there is only one left.

So the original street garden railing design from the beginning of last century, with perhaps some vaguely art nouveaux-ish influence in its design, has changed from being the norm at the top of Melrose Avenue, to today when it has become unique and a rarity, and as such very much worth preserving.



One would wish that all owners of the properties, which give the great character of the grid area in Wimbledon, are aware of how important is the maintenance and retention of the original features of these Edwardian houses when refurbishment work is undertaken. The grid is not in a Conservation Area and it is down to the residents to retain its character.

Another typical aspect of the area is given by the small front gardens which in the main are very well kept by all residents. However, one cause of concern is the creeping growth of the front garden shed which is increasing not only in numbers but also in size. It is clear that the rationale behind the need for these sheds is in some cases to hide the paraphernalia of even uglier dustbins and recycling boxes; in other cases to provide secure shelter for bicycles or prams. To justify the sights of sheds in the front gardens, some reaching now nearly 2 m in height (7'0"), there is a need for residents self-restraint in their deployment.





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Without wishing to identify any example in particular, the picture illustrates the visual impact of the front garden sheds on the street scene.



Another cause of concern affecting the grid area is the continuous loss of the original corner shops in the Revelstoke Road approach to the Park, this time by the change of use of two more shops to residential use. This trend affects the historic character of the street, reduces the employment offer, and the ability to shop locally. In one case in particular, we are confronted with a double whammy since the residential conversion is visually completely alien to the design of its surroundings.



To finish this article on a positive note, there are some very encouraging visual changes in the area and I wish to mention two cases in Wimbledon Park. Firstly, the replacement of the old timber fencing separating the Athletics Grounds from the Park by a fairly transparent metal fence that has greatly increased the visual integration between the two and with the lake.

Secondly, at the opposite side of the Park, by the walk running parallel to the railway line, the grass has grown where the temporary car park promoted by the local authority used to be, and as a result the Park looks so much nicer now than what it was with a sea of cars only a couple of years ago. Let's hope that it will be kept like this, but there again, this only happened because of the strong action taken by the members of the community, in other words, by you.



**Mario L Avendano, RIBA**



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Allegation	Method	Address	Date from	Time from	Date to	Time to
Burglary in a Dwelling	Unknown suspect(s) have forced entry through a sash window at the property and conducted an untidy search inside. Unknown at this time if any property has been stolen as victim is on holiday abroad.	ALVERSTONE AVENUE	16/07/2015	1230	17/07/2015	930
Burglary in a Dwelling	Attempted burglary, front window broken and blinds behind the window moved. No items taken and does not appear that suspects have entered the house.	ASHEN GROVE	16/07/2015	1800	17/07/2015	1550
Burglary in a Dwelling	Victim has returned from holiday and found her window open and a cigarette butt on the floor. No items known to be stolen.	DURNSFORD ROAD	11/07/2015	300	26/07/2015	1100
Burglary in Other Buildings	unknown suspects have stolen vehicle 1 without keys, believed bar-elled/hot wired, and damaged vehicle 2 in an attempt to take it	DURNSFORD ROAD	18/07/2015	2330	19/07/2015	30
Burglary in Other Buildings	Victim put bicycle in the container, gone to take it out for an evenings ride, found it had been broken into. He has then called police.	WOLSELEY AVE-NUE	18/07/2015	1300	18/07/2015	1650
Other Theft	By suspect unknown removing property from garden path whilst left unattended.	MOUNT ROAD	05/07/2015	1905		
Other Theft	By unknown/unseen suspect stealing victims bag from stated venue when victims attention elsewhere	HOME PARK ROAD	04/07/2015	1430	04/07/2015	1435
Other Theft	Victim used his debit card to withdraw cash at. Card did not come back out of the machine, Victim has been told by the bank £6543.00 has been taken from his account in a number of transactions.	ARTHUR ROAD	13/05/2015	2345	14/07/2015	1200
Other Theft	Suspects unknown have either found or taken the victims wallet. They have attempted to withdraw cash from his account which was denied by his bank	RYFOLD ROAD	18/07/2015	1330	19/07/2015	800
Other Theft	Suspect entered church, looked around and kicked one of charity boxes off the wall before wrapping it in his hoodie and making off in unknown direction	CRESCENT GAR-DENS	22/07/2015	1221	22/07/2015	1240
Theft From M/V	Victim is reporting that his car was entered and property stolen by person(s) unknown. Car left unlocked.	BRAEMAR AVE-NUE	04/07/2015	1130	04/07/2015	1145
Theft From M/V	number plates have been taken from victims car. no suspects heard or seen.	COPPER MILL LANE	06/07/2015	1800	09/07/2015	1800
Theft From M/V	by victim reporting theft from motor vehicle	HAVELOCK ROAD	10/07/2015	1900	13/07/2015	1310
Theft From M/V	By unknown suspect removing and taking both rear stop lights from victims Land Rover Discovery and making off with them.	LAMBOURNE AVENUE	13/07/2015	2000	14/07/2015	1000
Theft From M/V	Suspects have smashed the front passenger side window and opened the door. Suspects have then gone threw and opened the sliding side door of the mini bus removing one bike and taking it.	ARTHUR ROAD	05/07/2015	1200	16/07/2015	1200

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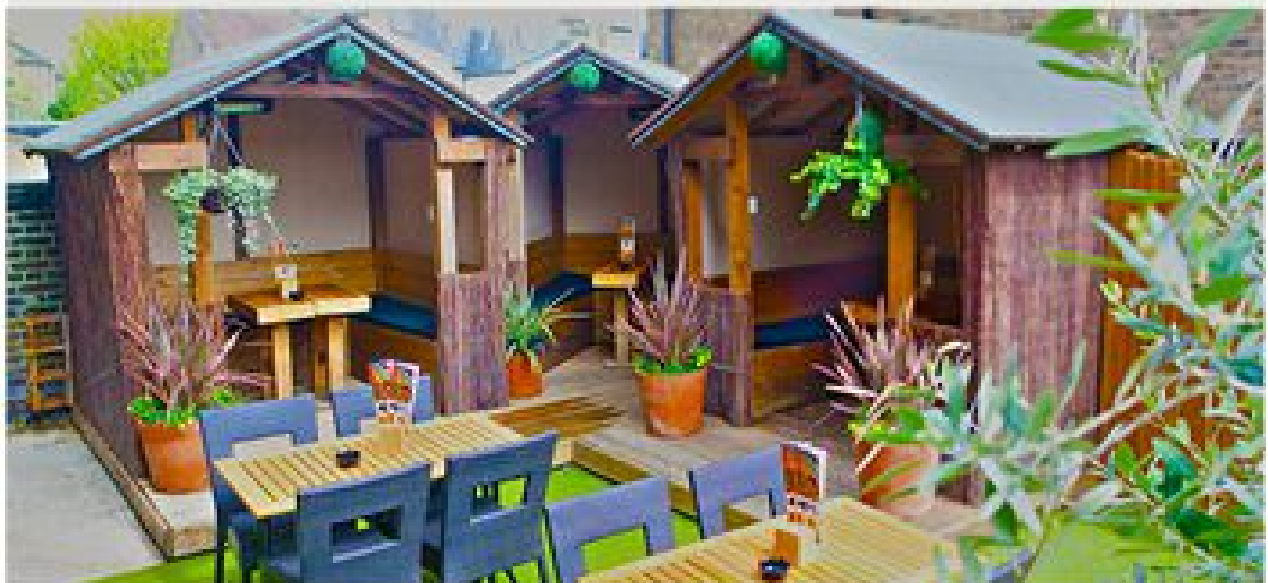


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# **November is Will Month**

**by McGlennons Solicitors**

**Will making this month is raising money for three of our local charities. This November is traditionally the month where solicitors promote the idea of making a will. Every year thousands of people gain peace of mind by writing their will and in November this will also raise money for charities.**

**Here at McGlennons Solicitors, we have designed a scheme to help local charities. We are proposing that every day in November we will have two appointments a day specifically for people to come in and make a will with us. We will charge a fixed sum (slightly less than our usual fee plus VAT) and this sum will be split between ourselves and the charity. While specific legacies to charities would be welcome, there is no requirement to make such a request in your will.**

**The three local charities that we wish to support are:**

- St Raphael's Hospice**
- Wimbledon Greyhound Welfare**
- Shooting Star Chase**

**The promotion will cover the cost of writing a basic will, or a pair of mirror Wills. If there are any complicated instructions, or if there is a requirement for inheritance tax advice, then our normal fees will be discussed.**

**As a guide a basic will is considered to be one in which the client is leaving their estate to a limited number of people and the estate value does not require any complicated inheritance tax advice.**

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

**Email - [a.hill@mcglennons.co.uk](mailto:a.hill@mcglennons.co.uk)**

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# Ten Reasons to Make a Will

By Andrew F. Hill

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# **Notice of Annual General Meeting**

**Date: Thursday 13th October 2015**

**Time: 8.00 pm**

**Venue: Wimbledon Park Hall**

**170 Arthur Road**

## **Agenda**

**Minutes of the last meeting**

**Matters arising**

**Chairman's Report**

**Treasurer's Report**

**Election of Officers**

**AOB**

**Refreshments will be served after the meeting**



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**ALLEYGATING**

I would like to take this opportunity to speak to you all about alleygating. Merton council is working with the residents of Merton to install alleygates in areas affected by anti-social behaviour. By helping to gate the entrances to the alleyways, we hope to reduce or eliminate these offences.

Grants of up to 45% towards the cost of gating schemes are available in the Borough. Alleygates are a proven tool in the reduction of crime. They:-

- reduce or stop fly tipping in alleyways
- Lower the risk of burglary
- stop anti social behaviour

If you are interested please contact Merton council on 0208 5454786 or visit the website at [www.merton.gov.uk/alleygating](http://www.merton.gov.uk/alleygating)

Many thanks for taking the time to read this message  
PC Roberts  
203VW



# Wimbledon Park Safer Neighbourhood Team

## The Wimbledon Park Ward Safer Neighbourhood Panel

Volunteers are needed who may be interested in joining the Panel. Meetings are held at approximate quarterly intervals. Please contact [WimbledonPark.SNT@met.police.uk](mailto:WimbledonPark.SNT@met.police.uk) or you can call 020 8721 2452.

### Crime Figures

*Total reported crimes in the Ward were 46 for May, 52 for June and 50 for July. An increase in Theft from Motor Vehicles has been due to the release from prison of the main culprit. There has also been an increase in Criminal Damage to Property. It was also noted that there is generally an increase in crime during the Wimbledon Fortnight.*

### Crime Prevention

**Cycle Marking** – cycle marking continues every third weekend at the Wimbledon Park Police Office. The next dates will be Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September 10am-12pm and Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 4pm- 6pm.

**Neighbourhood Link** – The LB Merton has been selected as a trial borough for the setting up of Neighbourhood Link whereby everyone registered with the Link is sent regular emails to inform them of the crime situation.

Contact [WimbledonPark.SNT@met.police.uk](mailto:WimbledonPark.SNT@met.police.uk)

**Alley Gates** – The Metropolitan Police and the LB Merton are working to promote the installation of gates at the entrances to alleyways. These should help with reduction of burglary (most burglars gain entry via the side or rear entrances to properties), fly tipping and the provision of secluded areas for drinking, drug taking and petty vandalism. Grants of up to 45% of the cost are available. Contact [www.merton.gov.uk/alleygating](http://www.merton.gov.uk/alleygating) or telephone 020 8545 4788.

**Police Surgery** – The next Police Surgery will be held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 12-1.30pm and Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 12-1.30pm at St. Luke's Church Hall.

**Theft from or of Motor Vehicles** – In Wimbledon Park Ward in the last 8 months there were 66 occasions of Theft from or of Motor Vehicles , 20% of all crimes. To help to prevent this you should always:-

- a) Lock your car,**
- b) Place valuables out of sight,**
- c) Take your car keys to bed with you! (Many cars are stolen after keys were taken during a burglary).**

PC Roberts 203VW

[WimbledonPark.SNT@met.police.uk](mailto:WimbledonPark.SNT@met.police.uk) or you can call 020 8721 2452.

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**Irene Fannie Chadwick Clarkson,**

**27 April 1921 – 13 January 2015**

*I am sure I will not be alone in feeling rather inadequate and saddened when discovering so late in the day (June) that Irene Clarkson had passed away in January. I had known Irene for quite a number of years and had many conversations with her over lunch in the Parc Café which she and I both liked to frequent. You may remember that we featured an article about her in the Autumn 2013 edition of the newsletter. This article was taken from the Wimbledon Society newsletter after I had persuaded her to take part in an interview for the Wimbledon Society Oral History archive. Despite her years, she still had a formidable memory and was a lively conversationalist. She not only still drove a car but very competently.*



*Those who knew her will have their own personal memories. For those that do not I am sure they will be interested to read something of her 94 years of life which, apart from the first five years, were spent living in the same house in Wimbledon Park.*

*The Rev. James Paice from St Luke's Church has kindly provided me with his tribute at the time of her funeral. The following is an extract.*

*Iain Simpson*

Irene Clarkson was born on 27<sup>th</sup> April 1921 in Queensland, Australia. Her parents were Thomas Wilfred Clarkson and Mary Gorman Houstone. After her parents split up, in 1925 her mother brought her to Whitby, Yorkshire to live with her paternal grandmother, then returned to Australia. After her grandmother died, Irene came to live with her father's sister, at 34 Home Park Road, Wimbledon, where she would spend the rest of her life (89 years). She holidayed with relations in Goathland and remained very attached to Yorkshire.

Irene had a governess for a short time before going to Wimbledon High School for the next 10 years. She remained connected to the school and was 'guest of honour' as their oldest old girl.

She walked to the High School every day and was very fond of Jack, the trace horse. who took coal and other heavy goods up Wimbledon Hill, and always took the opportunity to stroke him.

Irene attended Christ Church, West Wimbledon and went to the youth club. She would walk all the way there and young men from King's College school would ask if they could walk her home.

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During the war, she joined the Civil Service and worked for a year in Lytham St Anne's. She learnt to ride on the sands, and has supported the Horse and Pony Protection Association throughout her life.

After studying at the London School of Economics, she worked in the Probation Service from 1953 to 1981. As the first woman Probation Officer to enter a men's prison, she was asked if she would like a man to accompany her. She replied: 'Oh no, certainly not! I shall be quite all right.' She was 'no nonsense' even then.

Irene was the first person to own a car in Home Park Road. She grew up in an era when garages were serviced, and to the last never put petrol in her own car, but would toot or wave for service.

Irene was very independent-minded; for holidays she used to go on cargo ships and working boats to various foreign climes. Often the only woman aboard, she would be invited to inspect the engine room and eat with the captains. The retiring collection is given in her memory to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution which she supported.

Her fondness for ships led to her having her old ship's bell as a doorbell; there was no way you could miss a visitor.

Irene used to enjoy amateur dramatics, performing in plays at St Luke's. She considered being able to 'throw one's voice' very important. She commented that vicars ought to be taught this at theological college, then they could use the pulpit as they were meant to, and wouldn't need a microphone!

After retirement at 60, Irene became a volunteer 'Guardian' at Westminster Abbey, taking visitors around exhibitions in the Abbey Museum and answering questions. For many years she took her friends as a guest to the annual lunch in the College Garden.

Irene enjoyed flower arranging and would arrange flowers in the pedestal by the font for special occasions. She was a regular at the Seniors Lunch and never missed bringing a pineapple trifle every month.

Irene was not a usual spinster lady of her age. She had broad interests and was independent minded. She was also a Freeman of the City of London.

She knew what was core and didn't fuss about what was not. This was typified when, a couple of years back, we had a long-running debate about changing from 'pews' to 'chairs'. She just said: 'Well I remember when there were chairs before, dear'.

*If you would like to read more about Irene's life or listen to her interview, you can go to the Museum of Wimbledon website and find it under 'Oral History'.*

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



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## Like the fresh air and want to get fit?

The WPRA would like to approach Merton Council with a request to install outdoor exercise equipment in the Durnsford Recreation Ground. This robust exercise equipment is easy and fun to use for adults of all ages and abilities. Merton Council has already provided a number of these gyms in parks across the borough. However before approaching the council we want to make sure that there are plenty of people who would be interested in using them. So please let me know if this is something that you would make use of, so that when we approach the Council we can show that there is plenty of support in the Wimbledon Park Ward. This should help our case in getting this gym equipment installed. We can then all look forward to a fitter future!



Please e-mail your views to [pam.2015@outlook.com](mailto:pam.2015@outlook.com) or drop me a line at 1 Brooklands Avenue SW19 8EP

Pamela Hunt

## Volunteers Needed for Pruning!

In 2012 as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations a Fruit Hedge and a Sloe and Walnut Copse were planted in the Durnsford Recreation Ground by the WPRA and local children. The hedge and copse have grown quite considerably in the past few years and now require pruning. If you have an hour or two to spare over the weekends of 31 October - 1 November and 7-8 November and would like to help then please come and join us between 11-00 and 15-00 each day.

Experts will be on hand to show you exactly how to prune the gooseberry, redcurrant, blackcurrant, raspberry and sloe bushes and the plum, apple, cherry and pear trees.

Please bring with you thick gardening gloves as many of the trees and bushes have sharp thorns. Although there will be some equipment available please also bring with you any pruning shears or loppers you might have. As well as pruning we will also be spreading bark chippings under the hedge to help keep the weeds down.

As this is heavy work it is not recommended that you bring young children. Put the dates in your diary and we look forward to seeing you.





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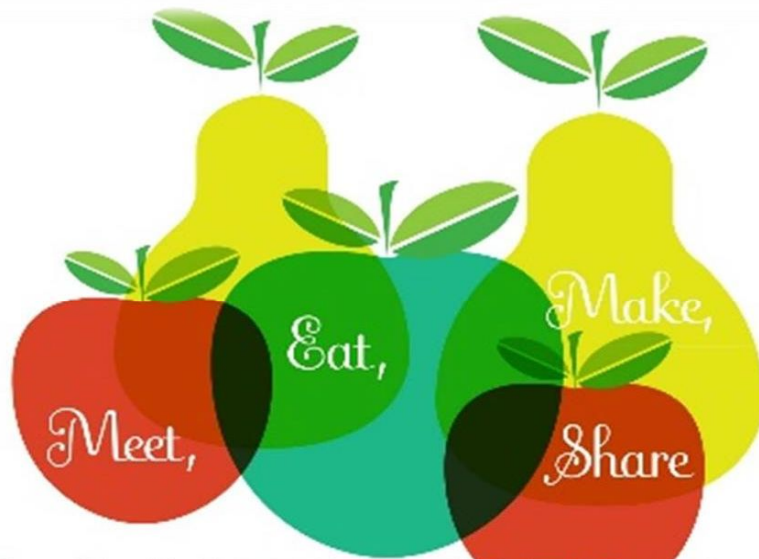
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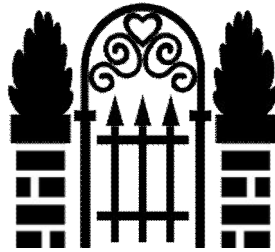
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## ***Front Garden Awards 2015***

**We are pleased to announce our annual Awards for attractive Front Gardens in Wimbledon Park. A team of local residents looked at the eligible\* gardens visible from the street to nominate their favourites. From these, a panel of judges arrived at the following decisions.**

***Overall winner of the John Uden Cup and  
Best All-Year Interest Garden:  
15 Home Park Road***

**This is an attractive mature garden, on the upper level of an upward sloping corner plot. The retaining wall is recessed to the left of the well-proportioned steps, discretely incorporating a parking bay, whilst the curved path to the house rises in a few more easy steps.**

**The planting structure is good, and includes two mature fruit trees, a large camellia and ceonothus, and a showy Sambucus nigra. A good mix of smaller shrubs and perennials includes lavender, plumbago, spirea, hydrangea, buddleja, mahonia, pitosporum, clematis, geranium and sedum. Outshining all of these are the roses; they line the lawn under the bay window and flank the path, whilst pink floribundas fill the lower part of the right-hand sloping bed, attracting the attention of passers-by.**

***Best Summer Interest Garden:  
8 Wellington Road***

**The garden of this terrace house has great visual impact, with its coordinated hanging basket and window boxes of jewel-coloured petunias, lobelias and begonias. These are beautifully complemented by two varieties of honeysuckle generously covering the front railings. Fuschias and lavender line the front path, whilst a peep behind the perfumed honeysuckle reveals a mix of perennials. The plants are attractively offset by ground cover of large pebbles in shades of buff.**



# **New WPRA Committee Members needed!**

**It is a long time since we had any new committee members. Are you interested in the local community? Would you be prepared to spend a few hours a month supporting the Association?**

**In particular we need people to fill the following posts:**

**Membership Secretary**

**Minutes Secretary**

**Sub Editor for the newsletter**

**If you are interested in any of these posts, give me a call.**

**Iain Simpson: 07836 361 782**



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**51 Ashen Grove, Wimbledon Park, SW19 8BL**

**Best Environmentally Sustainable Garden**  
**58 Normanton Avenue**

A gravel path leads to the pale blue front door, which is flanked by pots of dark blue clematis, pink pelargoniums and a hanging basket of blue pansies. Window boxes with pink pelargoniums complete the formal planting.

To the left of the path are pink spirea and a tall pink oleander. Informal box hedging lines the right of the path; filling the space beyond are a white rose, and tall spires of lavender and dark red fuschia growing up through the gravel. The unclipped golden privet behind the wall completes the overall 'floaty' feel to the garden, and the colour palette is restful.

The environmental credentials of the garden include gravel ground cover for water retention, densely planted evergreens for atmospheric cooling and shelter for wildlife, and nectar for insects.

**Two gardens were highly commended:**

- **99a Durnsford Avenue**, for an eye-catching display and clever use of the tiniest of spaces.
- **226 Durnsford Road**, for a pleasing and colourful mix of shrubs in a challenging environment.

**Presentation of the Awards**

will take place at the WPRAGM on 13th October 2015

Pictures of the winning and short-listed gardens will be on display.

We would welcome more people to get involved with the judging, so if you are interested and are willing to spare a few hours of your time next summer, please get in touch.

**Contact Jill Farmer**

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

**\*Footnote:**

The gardens of WPRAGM Committee Members, Ward Councillors, and those involved in the garden judging were not eligible for the Awards.

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### **Letters:**

**Our area needs a co-ed Secondary school instead of a 20,000 seater football stadium !**

**How is it possible that, whilst Merton Council designated the Greyhound Stadium site in Plough Lane as a site for 'Sports Intensification' , we are now facing the possibility of a multi-storey development of 600 plus flats and a 20,000 seater football stadium - with ZERO benefits for the local community?**

**What can be described as 'Sports Intensification' - A much needed secondary school with sports facilities/sports academy, where children can get involved in and 'practice' different sports, or a 20,000 seater football stadium where people have to buy expensive tickets to 'sit' and 'watch' the match.**

**But it gets even more confusing:** On May 28, 2015 Becky Middleton in her Guardian article about the need for new schools in the Borough wrote the following: **"Wimbledon greyhound stadium in Plough Lane was considered by the council, but its size and potentially difficult planning issues, proximity to an electricity station and flooding risk meant it did not make the shortlist."**

**Surely the above objections also apply to a dense housing development alongside a 20,000 seater football stadium, as the Electricity Station is still there and the high flood risk has not changed! Moreover, it seems that Galliard Homes has offered Merton the freehold of the football stadium part of the land. This means that Merton could get the land for 'free' to build a much needed school with 'sports facilities' for the local community instead of a football stadium, should they decide to waive the 'potentially difficult planning issues', which would make their exclusion of the site for school use impossible to understand. This calls for a thorough investigation.**

**If Merton Council has ruled out a school on this site for the above mentioned reasons, then a dense housing development alongside a 20,000 seater football stadium should also be out of the question!**

**Cllr David Dean (not one of our local Councillors) recently wrote a letter in the Guardian noting the total lack of senior schools in the North East of the borough and suggesting that the Greyhound Stadium would be far better used as a site for a new school rather than 602 flats. I think a great many local residents would agree.**

**Name and address supplied.**

***Editors note: Letters are welcome on any topic of local interest. Name and address should always be supplied.***



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DeNica Fairman - <b>Membership Secretary</b>	<b>3 Strathmore Road</b>	<b>SW 19 8DB</b>
Pamela Hunt - <b>Advertising</b>	<b>1 Brooklands Ave</b>	<b>SW19 8EP</b>
Nigel Israel	14 Ryfold Road	SW19 8BZ
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Elaine Sandon	90 Ashen Grove	SW19 8BN
Michael Tyler - <b>Planning</b>	Cromwell Road	SW19
Iain Simpson - <b>Chairman &amp; Newsletter Editor</b>	<b>56 Home Park Road</b>	<b>SW19 7HN</b>
Peter West - <b>Planning</b>	33 Cromwell Road	SW19
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