



Easter 2016



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Spring edition 2015

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**All advertising enquiries to: Pamela Healy
Email: pam.2015@outlook.com**

Chairman's Report

Greyhound stadium development

As many of you know, the planning application was discussed at the Council's Planning Applications Committee meeting on the 10th December last year and approved with conditions. We understand that, in the interim, discussions have been taking place between the Council and developers regarding the Section 106 agreement (planning obligations where the Developer pays a contribution to the Council). Apparently this stage is complete and the papers have been submitted to the GLA for final consideration. The GLA has fourteen days to respond. We understand that AFC Wimbledon are contributing £7m towards the construction of the Stadium and Galliards £14m. However there are reports that the affordability of the Stadium as originally proposed is under review. The only affordable housing element relating to this development is very poor and only by way of a Without Prejudice offer by Galliards for 9.5%. The normal figure required by the Council is 40%.

Early in the year the Association wrote to the GLA planners raising a number of issues which had been covered in its original objections to the application. Those involved in Stockcar racing at the Stadium have raised a big petition with the Mayor against the proposed closure of the Stadium. This, we now understand, will officially happen on the 18th June, ending a long history of Greyhound Racing in Wimbledon which started in 1928.

Haslemere Development

Kate Ives (First Base developers) updated HIE Residents Committee Chair, David Clare on 28th January as follows:

"As you know, we have taken some time out to respond to the comments made by the community and Merton, as well as resolve some technical issues. In practical terms this is where our recent focus has been, which will dictate the eventual design, unit numbers and as a consequence, the varying tenures.

We are looking to be in a position to update you on the emerging design within the next few weeks, and look forward to discussing the revised scheme with you in more detail then."

A meeting has taken place recently on 9th March with HIERC and WPRA both represented. Encouraging progress has been made on the design by First Base, and there is clear evidence of the development team having responded to concerns raised by HIERC on the inappropriate scale and form of the buildings. First Base indicates that their 3rd Public Consultation will be taking place during April, prior to a planning submission being made. Notes of the 9th March meeting will be circulated via email to all those signed up to the HIERC mailing list (HIEResidentscommittee@gmail.com) so do please let us know if you would like this update."

The HIE Residents Committee currently represents over 90 individuals from 15 surrounding streets. We have also consulted with Wimbledon Park

Residents' Association, local Ward Councillors, Stephen Hammond MP and Wimbledon Society Planning Committee who share our concerns over the inappropriate scale of this development.

If you want to connect, get involved or be kept up to date with progress, please e-mail us at HIEresidentscommittee@gmail.com

Crossrail2

The consultation carried out by TFL late last year raised a great deal of interest and we understand that overall some 19,000 responses were received from all stakeholders (not just Wimbledon). TFL have indicated that once they have digested the comments they will issue a report in the Spring. In particular responses were submitted from our MP, Stephen Hammond, Merton Council (cross party), Lovewimbledon, representing town centre commercial interests, and the Wimbledon Society. In general the responses welcomed the potential benefits that Crossrail2 could bring to Wimbledon but expressed considerable concerns about there only being one option to consider; the destruction to the centre of town that it proposed and the length of time (possibly seven years) that the development would take and whether the town would actually recover.

We will be covering Crossrail2 in future editions of the newsletter, with updates from Stephen Hammond and also on our website which is in the process of being updated. See the report from Stephen on Pages 6 and 7.

I also commend you to the article on pages 36 and 38 on the implications of tunnelling by Alan Maries, a local resident with experience of tunnel projects.

For the latest on Crossrail2 go to Crossrail2.co.uk.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

In the autumn we are going to be moving to full colour printing of this Newsletter, we hope that you will like the new look. To mark this occasion we are holding a Photographic Competition. Please send me your photographs of any scene taken in the Wimbledon Park area this summer and the winning entry will find its way on to our front cover, which will grace the doormats of nearly 3,000 homes in Wimbledon Park. So get out there and get snapping. Good luck!

Please send your entries to Pamela Healy at pam.2015@outlook.com

WIMBLEDON PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION WEBSITE

Our website has had a makeover, which we hope makes it more attractive and easier to find what you are looking for; from what we do to how to become a member, local news and issues which affect you, to how to hire the Hall on Arthur Road and the various classes that are held there. It also provides links to other likeminded societies, organisations, our councillors and the Council. To check out the website go to www.wimbledonpark.com

Crossrail2

Crossrail 2 should bring many benefits to Wimbledon. It will relieve pressure on services to Waterloo, reduce journey times into Central London and beyond, give more local people job opportunities within a 45 minute commute and attract more businesses and jobs to Wimbledon itself by regenerating the Town Centre.

However, I want to ensure that Crossrail 2 brings these benefits with as little disruption as possible to Wimbledon and its livelihood during its construction. I believe that TfL's current route option does not look like the best solution for Wimbledon and could lead to the destruction of much of the Town Centre.

In my consultation response I made it clear the current plans will involve a phasing of building which will mean the loss of commercial and retail space, as well as possibly residential, with seven to ten years of upheaval in the Town Centre causing negative impacts in terms of noise, road and traffic disruption with the potential environmental/health impact that building pollution will have on local residents and those who work in the Town Centre.

Moreover, the current proposed phasing plans are likely to lead to an effective "shutting down" of Wimbledon for up to seven years, from which I doubt it would recover. Therefore, instead of a regeneration project it would be a death knell.

I also expressed my disappointment that, with regards to the tunnel portal at Weir Road, there was little consideration for other opportunities at Gap Road nor the cumulative impact of the likely building at Plough Lane. There also appears to be little or no understanding of the loss of revenue to Merton Council from business rates generated at Weir Road.

Residents have also been understandably frustrated that only one option was presented for consultation. I made it clear that the current proposals are not acceptable nor are they in the interests of Wimbledon and therefore I could not support them. I have been urging Crossrail to bring forward new proposals and consider and present other options, including a tunnel under Wimbledon Station.

Last month I met with Michele Dix, the Managing Director of Crossrail 2, and I asked for details of the next steps and when they plan to report back on the consultation. I made the case once again that disruption must be kept to an absolute minimum and that other route options must be fully considered. I was pleased to hear that Crossrail 2 are now undertaking feasibility work on a number of alternative options.

Contd on Page 8

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Crossrail 2 are also currently analysing the 20,000 consultation responses and aim to produce a report of the consultation in March. This will set out the issues raised by respondents and I will meet directly with Michele soon after this is published to discuss it.

They will then re-assess their proposals in the light of the consultation responses and aim to bring forward a new set of proposals in late spring. This will then lead to a further round of consultation, hopefully at the end of the summer, at which point I will hold another public meeting.

I will continue to work tirelessly to secure a route that works for Wimbledon and will continue to keep residents updated. To help do this, I have set up a dedicated Crossrail 2 website with your local councillors; please do sign up to be kept up to date at www.crossrail2wimbledon.london

Stephen Hammond MP

+++++

Evening Standard Survey of Mensa Members.

SW19 comes out on top

Some 3,423 members of Mensa — the world's oldest high-IQ society, which celebrates its 70th anniversary this year — live in Greater London.

Mensa members are in the top two per cent of IQs in the population.

We've mapped the number of London's members by postcode; the bigger the circle, the more members of Mensa live in the area.

So E14 fares well, with 44 (in a population of 55,861), while NW3 — aka Hampstead, once home to Karl Marx, now home to Harry Styles — has 32 (in a population of 48,897). Further out, SW19 — think Wimbledon — has an impressive 51 'geniuses' in its population of 77,676.

If you want more info go to:

<http://www.standard.co.uk/lifestyle/esmagazine/street-smart-do-you-live-in-londons-smartest-postcode-a3179101.html#gallery>



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Wimbledon Park Residents' Association

Front Garden Awards

2016

Calling all gardeners in Wimbledon Park! We will be seeking the best Front Gardens in Wimbledon Park again for our annual awards, so please help to enhance the neighbourhood by making your front garden as attractive as possible.

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: 23 - 29 June

Final selections: Sunday 3 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.

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Remembering Pat Gomez

With excerpts (in quotes) from the Eulogy given at her funeral service

by Dr Anne Goddard

Many family members, friends and acquaintances attended the Putney Crematorium Chapel on the 22nd January to mourn the loss but also celebrate the life of Pat Gomez (née Crome). The main, heartfelt, eulogy was given by her lifelong friend Dr Anne Goddard. Dr Goddard described a wonderful friendship that started with them meeting as medical students in the Chemistry lab at St Mary's and which grew over the next 66 years, involving both families and many friends.



Both Pat and George were well known to many residents of Wimbledon Park through their great support of the Residents' Association and particularly her valued Chairmanship from 1996 to 2000.

Pat came to Wimbledon Park when she married Dr George Gomez who was an established GP in Southfields. Pat was a successful academic in the world of medicine and specialised in Haematology. After getting her MRCP(Path) she eventually became a consultant Haematologist at Queen Mary's Roehampton.

"There she wrote some published research papers on Target Cells and ran a large department with great efficiency, modernising and automating the service after a financial battle with the management."

When Pat married George (1978) she inherited quite a large family. George had four daughters with his first wife. However, not satisfied with four daughters, he went on to adopt twin boys and subsequently a further two boys and two girls, making a grand total of 10 children! By the time she married George there were only three living at home.

Pat's house in Guilford was always kept as a holiday cottage and over the many years was the scene of many happy shared weekends and holidays.



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Dr Goddard described how George and Pat met:

“Pat met George who asked an intelligent question during one of her post grad GP lectures and the post lecture socialising led to a long and extremely happy marriage. They had much in common, a love of music and art. George was a talented water colourist and was exhibited at the BMA.

“Pat moved to Dora Road, took on the care of the younger children of George’s family and became the absolute antithesis of a Grimms’ Fairy Tale stepmother. She succeeded because she was truly loving and understanding.

“When the children grew up Pat and George and Den and I started to go on holiday together. George had bought a timeshare in Praia da Oura. We would go out in September to stay, going on interesting trips in their hire car and swimming. Pat and I would stand on the beach watching anxiously as the ‘boys’ swam out to the far horizon and back. We would walk out in the evenings, dine out at the beach taverna watching the stars and the lights of the fishing boats. They were happy times.

**Latterly George developed Prostate Cancer and after a long illness died in 2004.
(Autumn 2004 newsletter)**

“It was not long after that Parkinson’s was diagnosed in her. I have always been convinced that the intense stress and bereavement brought it on.

“At first the symptoms were controlled by medication and we continued to visit each other and go to theatres and exhibitions together sometimes with my sister Monica. When Pat became more disabled she was maintained at home by Hellie, with Renata and a team of devoted carers. Debbie was undoubtedly the star carer and her support and loving care helped Pat to stay in Dora Road for a long time but eventually the complications of Parkinson’s meant she was moved to Beaumont House.

“They did their best there but it wasn’t the same and Pat got so frustrated by her inability to communicate with the staff as her speech deteriorated. Monica and I would visit and try to cheer her up but her memory also failed and she probably couldn’t remember. My last visit was for our joint 82nd birthdays and the next was in St George’s Hospital, Tooting.

“I am so glad she was moved back to Beaumont House for her last few days in familiar surroundings with her family around her.

“It is a great sadness to say goodbye to my oldest friend. I salute her many achievements; academic brilliance, a supremely happy marriage, care of her adoptive family and great qualities of heart and mind which made her so much loved by all her friends.”

End



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Friends of Wimbledon Park

News update for members, February 2016

Capability Brown Tercentenary – help us celebrate

Plans for our celebration of the 300th anniversary of Capability Brown are now well under way. The big day is Saturday 13 August, with a walk round the 4km Heritage Trail to unveil a series of commemorative plaques which we are commissioning. We are inviting local dignitaries and MPs to take part, and we hope as many local people as possible will be able to join in. So do please save the date!

Freedom of Information request nets lake pollution statistics

We recently made a successful Freedom of Information request to the Environment Agency to find out about pollution incidents in the lake. There have been 17 notified incidents since 2001, six of which killed fish. The worst was 14 years ago, when an unauthorised discharge of alkalis (probably cement washings) killed 7,000 roach and bream. The most recent was in November last year, when an unidentified pollutant killed 500 roach. We are concerned that many more incidents go unrecorded and, together with Wimbledon Park Angling Club, are currently trying to arrange a meeting with Thames Water to discuss preventative measures. We believe that more sensitive planting on the golf course would help, since marginal water plants can help filter out harmful substances.

Threatened pochard makes a comeback

The 13 pochards feeding on the lake recently were the third highest count in the last 30 years, as recorded by our resident ecologist Dr Dave Dawson. This species is red-listed because of declining breeding numbers, so the increase is encouraging. The recent arrival of colder weather after a long mild wet spell has halted most flowers, but the dog's mercury in Horse Close Wood, purple-leafed cherry plums by the downstream brook and some daffodils are out. A song thrush has been singing in Horse Close Wood, and great-spotted woodpeckers drumming in both woods.

Bowling under threat in Merton

Last autumn, Merton Council announced that, due to cost cutting, it would not be maintaining either Morden or Merton Bowls Greens from 2016, and Mitcham is likely to close at the end of the year. The Wimbledon Park Bowls Club, together with those in Merton Park and Raynes Park, has healthier membership numbers, and all three are safe for the moment, although the Council is not prepared to say for how long. Wimbledon Park Bowls Club is supporting Merton Bowls Club in its

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campaign against closure, and a petition has already attracted 800 online and 1,000 paper signatures. To sign the online version, go to www.change.org and search for 'Save Merton Bowls Club'.

Wimbledon Park on the curriculum

St Cecilia's School is currently discussing how it can incorporate Wimbledon Park into its English, history and geography curricula. We are also discussing whether pupils who are doing their Duke of Edinburgh Award might be able to create and maintain some raised flowerbeds, to mark the Capability Brown anniversary.

It's safe to play again

The small playground at the top end of the park is now back in full use, after the climbing frames were repaired.

Please renew your membership!

Finally, a plea. If your membership is coming up for renewal, or has already lapsed, do please renew it. Subscription fees are our only regular source of funding and we really do rely on your support. To renew your membership, or if you have any queries, please email us on info@friendsofwimbledonpark.org.uk



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You are welcome to drop your subscription through the door of the Membership Secretary, DeNica Fairman at 3 Strathmore Rd, or of our Chairman, Iain Simpson at 56 Home Park Rd.

Email* If you would like to be included on an e-mail list for crime alerts, WPRA updates and information on other important local issues, Please tick here**

☐

Please date...../...../.....

NEW BEGINNINGS!

I am very pleased to announce Gwyn Jones, a solicitor of over 30 years' experience, has joined the firm to provide advice on, among other matters, Wills, Probate and Lasting Powers of Attorney.

Since qualifying as a solicitor in 1984, Gwyn has worked in Private Practice, most recently in Wimbledon Park, which he combined with work as a Consultant Solicitor to European Business Lawyers Miller Rosenfalck, Clerkenwell.

Gwyn's other specialisms include Commercial Law, Commercial Conveyancing, Commercial and General Litigation at all Court Levels and Residential Conveyancing. Gwyn has also acted in the purchase, development and sale of many properties in London and the South East and has a small following of property developers for whom he currently acts.

Also at my firm, Zankhna Vyas continues to grow the residential conveyancing side of the practice and she will be pleased to provide a quote should you be thinking of moving home, buying or selling a property.

For my own part, I specialise in Lease Extensions and Freehold Enfranchisement Work. I also offer advice on Wills, Lasting Powers of Attorney and Probate.

I would also like to introduce our receptionist Jennie Thomson and administrative assistant Nasrin Moini and thank them for the invaluable support they provide us and our clients.

We have moved to larger premises which have listed building status. We are proud to be working with the London Borough of Merton and Historic England in adapting our internal improvements to preserve the integrity of the building which is one of the few listed buildings in Wimbledon Park. We are just fifty yards from the District Line station.

The Ethos of McGlennons is first to deliver friendly, qualitative, private client focussed advice and assistance. Second, to handle your matters confidentially and professionally; turning the clock back a little to the days before call centres when you could walk in to see your solicitor, bank manager or accountant, without being held in a queue and being told your 'custom is important to us'. Last, but not least, always providing the best legal advice, even if it means pointing you in the direction of another lawyer with different niche specialisms.

Finally, if you have any Wills, Probate, Lasting Power of Attorney or property related matters Gwyn, Zankhna and I will be pleased to advise you, combining traditional high street practice values with latest technologies.

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Please feel free to contact us at McGlennons Solicitors for more information.

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Allegation	Method	Address	Date and time from	Date and time to
Burglary in a Dwelling	By suspect unknown climbing front of building to open first floor sash window, method unknown, to enter with intent to steal. No property missing at this time.	ARTHUR ROAD	14/01/2016 18:15	14/01/2016 23:00
Burglary in a Dwelling	Suspects have used a fake plastic terracotta plant pot from the front garden to smash a pane of stained glass window in the front door in an attempt to gain entry. Not sure if entry was gained.	BRAEMAR AVENUE	14/01/2016 18:00	15/01/2016 10:00
Burglary in a Dwelling	Victim 2 has just moved into the address. As he moved in he noticed the balcony door had been damaged and there was a thin metal bar on the balcony. It is unknown whether or not this was left by previous tenants.	DURNSFORD ROAD	25/12/2015 12:00	02/01/2016 10:45
Burglary in a Dwelling	By unknown suspects breaking into the property via sash window, conducting untidy searches and taking items.	DURNSFORD ROAD	08/01/2016 12:20	08/01/2016 15:45
Burglary in a Dwelling	by unknown offenders breaking into venue via communal loft, smashing ceiling, untidy search of flat and exiting via locked front door	DURNSFORD ROAD	08/01/2016 08:30	08/01/2016 22:12
Burglary in a Dwelling	front door window smashed, all downstairs room gone through, car stolen with keys	NORMANTON AVENUE	11/01/2016 03:10	
Burglary in Other Buildings	By unknown suspect/s removing push bikes from shed and leaving scene undetected.	DURNSFORD ROAD	24/01/2016 15:00	24/01/2016 18:00
Burglary in Other Buildings	Bike taken from communal lock up after lock was cut	PLOUGH LANE	20/11/2015 00:01	23/01/2016 08:00
Other Criminal Damage	Victim 2 states that between closing hours of the building site someone has broken the padlocks used to close the entrance door and entered the building site, they then broke another padlock to enter the tools shed.	HAYDONS ROAD	18/01/2016 17:00	19/01/2016 07:00
Other Theft	by person(s) unknown using means and method unknown to take victim's fresh fruit/veg box delivered and left untended outside main entrance to block of flats	DURNSFORD ROAD	15/01/2016 04:30	15/01/2016 08:30
Other Theft	Suspect1 has entered store and gone to checkout of suspect2 on six (6) different occasions in the past month allowing him through without scanning all of the products on the trolley	ENDEAVOUR WAY	19/12/2015 14:21	10/01/2016 13:52
Other Theft	By suspect working for removals company, packing victims belongings for house move and stealing the iPad in the process.	HAYDON PARK ROAD	30/07/2015 07:00	31/07/2015 14:00

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REPORTING PROBLEMS

If you see a problem in your street be it graffiti, fly tipping, dead trees, broken pavements, blocked gutters, over flowing litter bins, potholes, faulty lighting or anything else that is causing you concern, you can report it via your phone using a free app downloaded from fixmystreet.com. All you need do is put in the post code or let the app find your location and describe the problem, you can even attach a photo. FixMyStreet is a charity set up by mySociety as an easy way to report problems in your community. They will then forward the report to the correct department within the Council for them to deal with. You can also view what others have already reported.

Alternatively you can go directly to Merton Council's website and report any problems on line using the Report It tab on their home page.

Remember, if you have any bulky waste, Merton Council operates a free collection service for items such as TVs, furniture and carpets. The Council will collect up to 5 items once every three months. Collection of some items will incur a charge – see the Large or Bulky Household waste page on Merton Council's website for full details or call 020 8274 4902. There is also a website called freecycle.org where you can post any unwanted items that might be of use to others.

OUR ENVIRONMENT IS YOURS

The WPRA's Newsletter normally includes articles concerning the residents' views on sensitive topics such as the progress through the planning process for the approval, or otherwise, of proposals for large developments that will have an important and lasting impact on our local context and environment.

Recently, the Newsletter has informed us and followed in detail the proposals and outcome for the Plough Lane Greyhound Stadium site; it has also covered the initial consultations taking place for the proposals for the Haselmere site, another proposed development with similar issues to those covered for the Greyhound site; and probably more importantly yet, the emerging proposals for Crossrail 2.

The WPRA's Newsletter has a wide circulation and through its pages it seems to me, to be a natural vehicle for the local residents to air their views on all of these matters that will affect our environment, sometimes in a positive way, sometimes perhaps in a negative manner.

Generally, it is perceived that the comments on all of these large proposed developments affecting Wimbledon, whether purely proposed infrastructural changes or new residential and commercial developments, are often reactive to the proposals in a slightly negative manner - the 'not in my back garden' syndrome - rather than on the essence of how we address with the demands and pressures that the XXI century poses on the development of our neighbourhood.

For example, I would find it extremely interesting to learn the views of the local residents on how they would like to see the skyline of Wimbledon by the middle of the century. Given the shortfall in the residential provision, would it be alright if there was a proliferation of residential tower blocks along some of the main arteries in the area as we can see along the River Thames? Where would it be acceptable to accept the demolition of large single dwelling houses and see them replaced by middle height blocks of flats?

Are we happy that the change by stealth of the character of Wimbledon should continue, depending on the strength of the negotiations between Merton Council and the developers, no matter how well intended the proposals may be, or should the change be informed and guided by a model that the local residents promote?

Do local policies and plans reflect the views of the local residents? Environmental changes are taking place constantly, just walk around where you live and you will note how many new developments, small, medium or big, are taking

Other Theft	By person(s) not known, removing the front wheel from victims bicycle, at location, between times shown, unseen, then decamping in an unknown direction.	HAYDONS ROAD	28/01/2016 07:30	28/01/2016 17:55
Other Theft	by suspect stealing approximately £170 in cash from the small box in which it is kept behind the counter at the venue.	LEOPOLD ROAD	26/01/2016 15:15	26/01/2016 15:20
Other Theft	The suspect ran away without paying for the food delivery	PLOUGH LANE	03/01/2016 23:20	
Other Theft	By person(s) unknown stealing a power saw which had been left unattended on the forecourt of the venue.	PLOUGH LANE	26/01/2016 07:30	
Theft From M/V	By suspect(s) unknown gaining entry to the victims car and taking a push chair from the boot and child's seat from the back.	ASHEN GROVE	12/01/2016 17:00	13/01/2016 10:00
Theft From M/V	Theft from motor vehicle	HOME PARK ROAD	18/01/2016 09:07	
Theft From M/V	Drivers side window smashed on vehicle with unknown object.	PLOUGH LANE	16/01/2016 14:30	17/01/2016 11:26
Theft From M/V	Victim left her car doors unlocked so door was opened to take scarf.	VINEYARD HILL ROAD	11/01/2016 17:00	12/01/2016 06:55
Theft/Taking of M/V	Unknown suspect has stolen moped from outside victims address	HAVELOCK ROAD	23/01/2016 22:30	30/01/2016 22:30
Theft/Taking of M/V	Moped stolen and dumped behind some garages on Hanford close	STUART ROAD	15/01/2016 19:00	
Theft/Taking of M/V	Vehicle stolen by driving out of secure yard during business hours without consent.	WATERSIDE WAY	20/01/2016 11:56	20/01/2016 13:55
Theft/Taking of M/V	Moped left outside of industrial unit with keys in ignition (with lots of other mopeds with keys in the ignition). Owner returned to area at 1300 to find that moped was no longer there.	WEIR ROAD	01/01/2016 10:30	01/01/2016 13:00

place, and ask yourselves if you like what you see and record your views on what you see. Gathering or publishing these views can only lead to the formulation by the relevant authorities of better guidelines for developing Wimbledon, that should be in place before we are confronted and asked to comment about one specific project, where given the complexity of the issues at stake, we are generally unable to decide if these proposals will improve or detract from our current environment.

Perhaps promoting a debate on our ideas for the improvement of our local environment will help answer such complex questions posed by projects such as Crossrail 2.

Mario Avendano, RIBA, February 2016

+++++

Abundance asks for help!

At Abundance Wimbledon, we have been picking unwanted fruit, ensuring it gets used (including supplying local charities with fresh fruit) and making lots of jams, chutneys etc. We are very grateful to the many Wimbledon Park members who have helped with it all and have joined us at the Fruit Day event.

However, we now need some help to keep it all running!

A range of talents and skills is needed, from publicity and communications, to planning the fruit picking and the Fruit Day event. Some things don't take up much time at all, whereas others may require a bit of ongoing attention during the picking season. It would be such a shame if Abundance wasn't able to carry on, so any help you can give would be greatly appreciated. By getting involved, you can get to know a really nice group of people, be out in the fresh air, get exercise and enjoy lots of fresh fruit.

To find out more about the different ways of helping, please look at the website <http://www.abundancewimbledon.com> or email Juliet at abundancewimbledon@gmail.com. Please do get back to us by the middle of April, as we need to get going on all of this. Don't let it put you off if you can only help some of the time, as this group only works because people are happy to cover or job-share - we aim for it be fun rather than a burden!

Welcome to Z group!

The UK's first **genuine** Alternative Business Structure (ABS) offering a comprehensive suite of accounting, legal, tax, wealth protection and management consultancy services to our personal and business clients. We are a truly integrated end-to-end "one-stop" shop.

Vision

We aim to **challenge, disrupt** and ultimately change the **discrete** professional services market. We always serve our **group's best interest** not our professional ego. We exist to help our clients achieve their goals. We will continue to innovate and diversify our skill base to ensure we can service our clients' evolving needs. This year we will be adding **architecture, property management** and **estate agency services** through three strategic investments. We are actively seeking to embrace additional professional services within Z group over the next five years and while we cannot predict the future, we know our philosophy and core values will remain the same.

Philosophy

Bespoke – Each client is as **unique** as we are. Our highly **experienced** team help our clients achieve their personal and business goals through collaborative, fresh thinking.

Financial – We help you make the right financial, investment and wealth protection decisions taking into consideration our intimate understanding of your world.

Intelligence – Our diverse multidisciplinary team use their deep technical skills and judgement to help you **reduce costs, manage risks** and exploit **opportunities to grow**.

Core Values

Reliability – Agile and **highly focused** response. We evolve with your business and family needs.

Integrity – We will give you an **honest answer**, not just what you want to hear, identifying opportunities and potential challenges.

Collaborative – Our teams are centrally managed to deliver unified **sustainable benefit**.

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ARMED FORCES VETERANS: ARMY NAVY AND AIRFORCE 4.8 MILLION IN THE UK
“YOUR BOROUGH NEEDS YOU” A NETWORKING EVENING SAT MAY 21 2016

Not many people know that official figures tell us that there are 22,800 Veterans in the Borough of Merton. 60% of Army Veterans are more likely than civilians to be unemployed according to recent research. Veterans find it difficult to translate their acquired military knowledge, skills and experience into the language of commercial employers. We can use science, technology and expertise to overcome this barrier. The Ministry of Defence has invested more than £100 million in a new contract to help Veterans make the transition back to civilian life. The Borough of Merton has signed up to the Community Covenant and Corporate Covenant to provide funds to help Veterans and their families and we are launching this event to bring Veterans and Civilians together.

We invite you to come on Saturday May 21st to hear about initiatives recently launched and encourage you to bring ideas of your own. A spokesman will explain The Veterans One Stop Service launched by the Z Group to help Veterans get whatever advice they need whether accountancy, legal, or health just by calling one number. In addition you will hear about The Key Changes Veterans Music Club which is encouraging Veterans with health issues to get better through the “Healing Power of Music” and an explanation will be given on how people can be involved. Jim Smith the guitarist, founder of the group Two Different Roads, will play and explain how music helps people recover from their addiction problems and how it helps dementia sufferers.

Nicky Winter a Veteran commissioned in the Life Guards during the Suez Crisis and EOKA campaign in Cyprus in 1956 will host the evening. A Wimbledon Park Resident he participates in the London Armed Forces Network which encourages ideas to help Veterans. Additionally a spokesman will talk about the Veterans Employment Programme for Recovering Alcoholics/Addicts launched as a project by EPRA (UK). Please consult Nicky by email to come to this event advertised on the opposite page and **BRING YOUR OWN IDEAS.**

Armed Forces Day Saturday June 25 and we plan to have a stand at the Tooting and Mitcham Football Club along with other organisations helping Veterans.

VETERANS IN MERTON
NETWORKING EVENING FOR VETERANS AND FAMILY MEMBERS

WIMBLEDON PARK HALL, 170 ARTHUR ROAD
SATURDAY MAY 21 2016
19:30 – 22:00

An evening to share information and new ideas about local programmes and initiatives aimed at helping Armed Forces Veterans in our community.

EVENT SPEAKERS

JIM SMITH – GUITARIST

Providing a short musical performance and presentation on the “Healing Power of Music in Recovery and Dementia”

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE VETERANS ONE STOP SERVICE

A spokesperson from “The Z Group”

AN INTRODUCTION TO “KEY CHANGES VETERANS MUSIC CLUB

NICKY WINTER

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME FOR RECOVERING ALCOHOLICS & ADDICTS - “BACK TO WORK, BACK TO LIFE”

A SPOKESMAN FROM EPRA (UK)

THERE WILL BE TIME FOR GUESTS TO PRESENT THEIR OWN IDEAS TO HELP VETERANS IN THE BOROUGH – PLEASE LET US KNOW IN ADVANCE IF YOU WANT TO SPEAK AT THE EVENT – ALL IDEAS ARE WELCOME

A BUFFET DINNER WILL BE AVAILABLE
COST PER HEAD £12 INCLUDES ENTRY TICKET

THE CO-OP IN ARTHUR ROAD HAVE KINDLY AGREED
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NICKY@EPRA.ORG.UK



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Smart Meters

This is the second time I urge all residents to inform themselves properly `before` they agree to have a smart meter installed in their homes.

Check out all the facts on www.stopsmartmeters.org.uk

The `Take back your Power` video gives detailed expert info about health effects from smart meter radiation, reported by people in the US and Canada, who have been forced to have smart meters installed and have felt the ill effects for some years . In some areas they are being removed now.

“Utility companies are replacing electricity, gas and water meters worldwide with new generation “smart” meters at an unprecedented rate. Take Back Your Power investigates the benefits and risks of this ubiquitous “smart” grid program, with insight from insiders, expert researchers, politicians, doctors, and concerned communities. Transparency advocate Josh del Sol takes us on a journey of revelation and discovery, as he questions corporations’ right to tap our private information and erode our rights in the name of “green”. What you discover will surprise you, unsettle you, and inspire you to challenge the status quo.”

What the smart meter industry is not telling you is the fact that smart meters will not reduce your bills. US experience states the exact opposite. People have reported huge rises.

But, most importantly, Smart Meters have already caused several hundred fires because they can overheat. In the US these meters are placed on the `outside` walls of the properties (although this has not protected their homes from being burned down). However, most meters in our old, mostly terraced homes in the UK are situated under the stairs which poses an increased fire risk. Coupled with old wiring this risk increases manifold. You can watch the eruption of one of these smart meter fires on the stopsmartmeter website.

Also, check out the terrorist threat to the smart grid coupled with invasion to your privacy on this website too.

In case you cannot access all the info online, here are some of the latest headlines:

Could smart meters be used to spy on your home? Devices could be used to cre-

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ate 'honeypot' of data to sell onto marketing companies, privacy campaigners warn – Mail Online

- See more at: <http://stopsmartmeters.org.uk/news/#sthash.hpAmS6hz.dp>

Dan Lewis: Smart meters are a bad deal for consumers costs- See more at: <http://stopsmartmeters.org.uk/news/#sthash.hpAmS6hz.dpuf>

The great smart meter rip-off: Energy giants will use devices to DOUBLE the cost of power when you need it most

Energy giants are set to use digital smart meters as a way to double the cost of power when families need it most — adding nearly £60 a year to the average bill.

A Money Mail investigation has discovered Britain's leading power firms are expected to introduce tariffs that charge more at peak times when they roll out new electronic meters which monitor how much energy you use by the second.

It means electricity and gas used in the evenings could cost 99 per cent more than at other times — penalising everyone cooking family meals, watching popular TV shows and heating their homes on chilly winter evenings. <http://www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/bills/article-3322658/The-great-smart-meter-rip-UK-energy-giants-use-devices-DOUBLE-cost-power-need-most.html>

Do not be deceived by industry PR! The government and Defra have confirmed that smart meters are NOT compulsory (as explained on stopsmartmeter website), so you can say NO.

Personally, I have informed Thames Water that, should they connect a 'smart' water meter to my supply against my will, I will refuse to pay for my water. I am not against metering the way it has been done so far, but smart meters are anything else than smart. They will affect my health, my finances and my privacy and I will not be bullied into giving my consent.

On March 14th I will explain more of these issues during the Wimbledon Community Forum.

I have been researching the subject of wireless frequencies used in mobile communication since 1995, liaising with Scientists from the UK, Germany, Russia, Austria, the US and New Zealand who all had a hard time getting their information out against the wishes of the telecommunication industry. I wrote a paper on this subject over twenty years ago for Merton's Environment Forum and had a similar

reaction. The evidence I provided was mainly met with ignorance and denial.

Because of this opposition I created a public information portal in the form of hese-uk (<http://www.bemri.org/archive.html>) supported by a large group of International Scientists, which is now archived under www.bemri.org, a website created to publicise the alternative to microwave transmission : Visible Light Communication, now marketed as Li-Fi. After TEN long years it now looks like this new technology will be taken up by `Apple' in the future and Paris is trialling it on their subway.

The latest TED presentation, featured on my website (<http://www.bemri.org/news.html>) will give everyone the best 16 mins. summary and all the info needed to make an informed decision when deciding on using wireless technology, in particular smart meters.

Ingrid Dickenson BRCP EMR, Energy Medicine Practice,

www.earthbreathing.co.uk

Bio-Electromagnetic Research Initiative, www.bemri.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO DELIVER OUR NEWSLETTER

We have an army of volunteers who deliver this newsletter to your doors, for which we are very grateful, as we would not be able to run this publication without them. However there are a few streets where we could do with a little help. So if you live in or around **Havelock Road, Kingsley Road or Kohat Road** and could spare an hour or so three times a year to deliver our newsletter please get in touch.

Also for the first time we are delivering this newsletter to houses in **Pitt Crescent, Ashcombe Road and Gap Road**. So if you live in any of these areas and are willing to help please get in touch.

We will deliver the newsletters to your door and not only will you be helping the WPRA by volunteering to deliver the newsletter, it is also an excellent way to get a little bit of exercise!

If you would like to volunteer please contact Pamela Healy at pam.2015@outlook.com

Wimbledon Park Safer Neighbourhood Team

As you are probably well aware the Police have been facing massive cuts over the past five years. These are set to continue until 2020. Fortunately in December the Chancellor announced that the cuts to the Police won't be as severe as first thought. As a result this has meant that the Metropolitan Police have been able to keep PCSO's across London, including Merton Borough and Wimbledon Park ward.

We are still keen to attract new Ward Panel members. The panel consists of residents or people who work locally and have an interest in Policing on the ward. This is a voluntary role and we meet four times a year. It is a position that is open to people from all backgrounds, young and old, although you would need to be at least 18yrs of age. You would then be able to have an input on Policing priorities for your community and ask questions and challenge your local officers. As a result of the last panel meeting held at the end of January we will now be conducting regular speed checks on certain roads on Wimbledon Park where there is a 20mph limit in force.

Crime on the Borough remained stable up until the end of last year. In August, September and October there were a total of 197 crimes on Wimbledon Park ward. In November, December and January there were 167 crimes, which equate to 30 crimes (15%) less than the previous three months. So far February seems to be keeping to the trend of fewer crimes with only 39 reported so far up until 20th.

Over the past few months two females who work on Weir Road state that they have been followed onto the footpath that runs alongside the river Wandle by an unknown male. The description given of the male is of Asian appearance, medium height and build with short dark hair around 30-40 years of age. Fortunately nothing has ever happened, but please be aware if you are walking alone.

In December we received information that a brothel was operating at an address in Arthur Road and people were seen to be coming and going from the address throughout the day and night. Quick action was taken and those identified as working at the brothel were dealt with appropriately and the premises were shut down and handed back to the landlord.

To try and combat bike theft on the ward we will be holding bike marking events at various dates in Wimbledon Park outside of the café. This is a free service offered by the Police and means that your bike will be registered to a national database and should it be stolen it is a lot easier to trace and hopefully recover. Upcoming dates will be announced on the Wimbledon Park website. Please visit <http://content.met.police.uk/Team/Merton/Wimbledonpark>

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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CROSSRAIL 2 – A TUNNELLER’S PERSPECTIVE

If the Hybrid Bill for Crossrail 2 receives Parliamentary assent as anticipated, the ensuing Act will enshrine the Developer’s obligations in a series of documents including a schedule of Environmental Minimum Requirements and a Construction Code of Practice. These documents will be based mainly on the current legal framework, but will also refer to conditions specific to the project, such as protecting environmentally sensitive areas or maintaining traffic flow in congested streets.

The Crossrail 2 project will be divided into many different contracts along the entire route. There may be four or more separate contracts for Wimbledon, covering items such as Station Redevelopment, Tunnelling, new Road Bridges, and Railway Works. These will be put out to tender among ‘approved’ contractors (those with sufficient financial and technical resources, often working in partnerships), who will aim to optimise financial and technical issues while preparing their bids. A successful contractor will then spend the first few months of the contract working with Crossrail 2 on further improvements while mobilising staff and equipment.

I have worked as the contractor’s Environmental Site Manager on the East London Tunnels both for the Channel Tunnel Rail Link and for Crossrail. Essentially, my role was to ensure that construction (both underground tunnelling and surface works) made as little an impact as practicable on the local communities, within the physical and budgetary constraints of the project. Any Crossrail 2 contractor will also be required to appoint one or more Community Relations Officers, who will act as the vital link between the construction team, the Local Authority, and the residential and business community.

Legislation that controls noise and working hours requires contractors to apply for Noise Consents, which must be agreed with the Local Authority’s Environmental Health Officers (EHOs). In my experience, a robust response from competent EHOs leads to cooperative working, avoidance of misunderstandings, and buy-in from residents and businesses, to the considerable advantage of all. In a congested town centre such as Wimbledon, coordination and phasing between the various worksites (each probably operated by different contractors) will be of paramount importance, and the Local Authority should play a crucial role here.

Noise Consents define limits to working hours (normally 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, and no work on Sunday) and maximum allowable noise levels. The Contractor is required to predict anticipated noise levels arising within these limits, and to change and refine

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their working practices to reduce these levels as far as practicable. The Consents also allow longer working hours in exceptional circumstances (for instance for high volume concrete foundation pours or complex road works), and make provision for noise insulation and even for temporary rehousing where excessive noise is unavoidable.

However, it is important to note that both tunnelling and its supporting activities are exempt from such time restrictions. Because Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) are such massive beasts - 7 metres in diameter, 150 metres long and weighing 1000 tonnes or more - they tend to sink into soft ground if not continually moving forward. So the tunnel portal, wherever it is sited, will be working non-stop around the clock (including weekends) for the entire duration of tunnelling (maybe 2 years or more), with only the occasional week or so of respite for essential maintenance.

TBMs are essentially large mincing machines, excavating up to 1000 cubic metres of spoil every day as they move forward at a typical average speed of 2 metres per hour. This spoil is removed from the tunnel by conveyor belt, stockpiled nearby before being taken away by rail for use in construction or remediation works elsewhere. A continuous supply of heavy concrete segments is needed to make up the tunnel lining. These segments (each weighing 2-3 tonnes) are brought in by rail, stockpiled and manoeuvred down into the tunnel portal by electric cranes working continuously from the commencement of tunnelling until it is finished. They are then delivered to the TBM along a temporary railway set up within the tunnel.

Noise and vibration from TBMs can be heard and felt for up to 50 metres, like a distant washing machine with trainers inside! But by the time you've noticed it, it's likely to be on the way past – except in very unusual geological conditions or if there are piled foundations of tall buildings nearby which can act as 'sound posts'. The temporary railway inside the tunnel poses more of a problem (especially at the start of the tunnel), as the effects of noise will last for the duration of tunnelling. Continual maintenance of sleeper bolts and rail joints is necessary to reduce the noise generated by tunnel trains delivering supplies. But such is the effectiveness of the damped resilient mountings of modern rail track construction that, once completed, the permanent operating railway will rarely give rise to perceptible noise and vibration.

What next? Crossrail 2's report on their analysis of the 20,000 consultation responses is expected in March. This will enable them to re-assess their existing proposals and to prepare a further round of consultation in the autumn.

Alan Maries 28-Feb-16

Celebrating Capability Brown's 300th anniversary

The landscape architect Capability Brown, who created Wimbledon Park, was born 300 years ago this August. The Friends of Wimbledon Park (FOWP) have organised a series of events to mark this important milestone.

Over the weekend of 13 and 14 February, almost 50 volunteers of all ages turned out to plant 1,000 trees to restore and extend Horse Close Wood and help screen the Wimbledon Park Road car park from view. The trees – all native species, including dog rose, wild cherry and blackthorn – were funded by a £3,000 grant from the London Tree and Woodland Community Grant Scheme which FOWP secured last year.

FOWP Chairman Nick Steiner said: "The event was a chance for local people to celebrate Capability Brown's tercentenary, and play a part in enhancing this wonderful piece of local heritage."

Plans are now also well under way for the main celebration, which takes place on Saturday 13 August. There will be a walk round the 4km Heritage Trail to unveil a series of commemorative plaques, followed by tea and cakes. FOWP are inviting local dignitaries and MPs to take part, and hope that local people will also want to join in. So do please save the date.


Did you know?

Capability Brown has been described as "England's greatest gardener", with more than 170 gardens to his name, including Blenheim, Chatsworth and Long-leat. As well as Grade II* listed Wimbledon Park, designed for the Spencer family, his London gardens include Syon Park, Richmond Palace Gardens, (now part of Kew Gardens), Gray's Inn Walks and St James' Park.



W.P.R.A. Committee 2015/2016

Ken Ball	20 Stroud Road	SW19 8DH
Kathy Blackburn	51 Ryfold Road	SW19 8DF
Spike Clarke	30 Home Park Road	SW19
Beate Eberhardt	17 Crescent Gardens	SW19 8AJ
DeNica Fairman - Membership Secretary	3 Strathmore Road	SW 19 8DB
Pamela Healy - Advertising	1 Brooklands Ave	SW19 8EP
Nigel Israel	14 Ryfold Road	SW19 8BZ
Mamoona Jahangir	260 Durnsford Road	SW19 8DS
Paresh Modasia	124 Arthur Road	SW19 8AA
Michael Moore - Horticulture	344 Durnsford Road	SW19 8DX
Elaine Sandon	90 Ashen Grove	SW19 8BN
Michael Tyler - Planning	Cromwell Road	SW19
Iain Simpson - Chairman & Newsletter Editor	56 Home Park Road	SW19 7HN
Peter West - Planning	33 Cromwell Road	SW19
Cllr Janice Howard, ex officio	Dora Road	SW19
Cllr Oonagh Moulton, ex officio	21 Melrose Avenue	SW19 8BU
Cllr Linda Taylor ex officio	Pine Grove	SW19



Carmela Guida's School of Ballet

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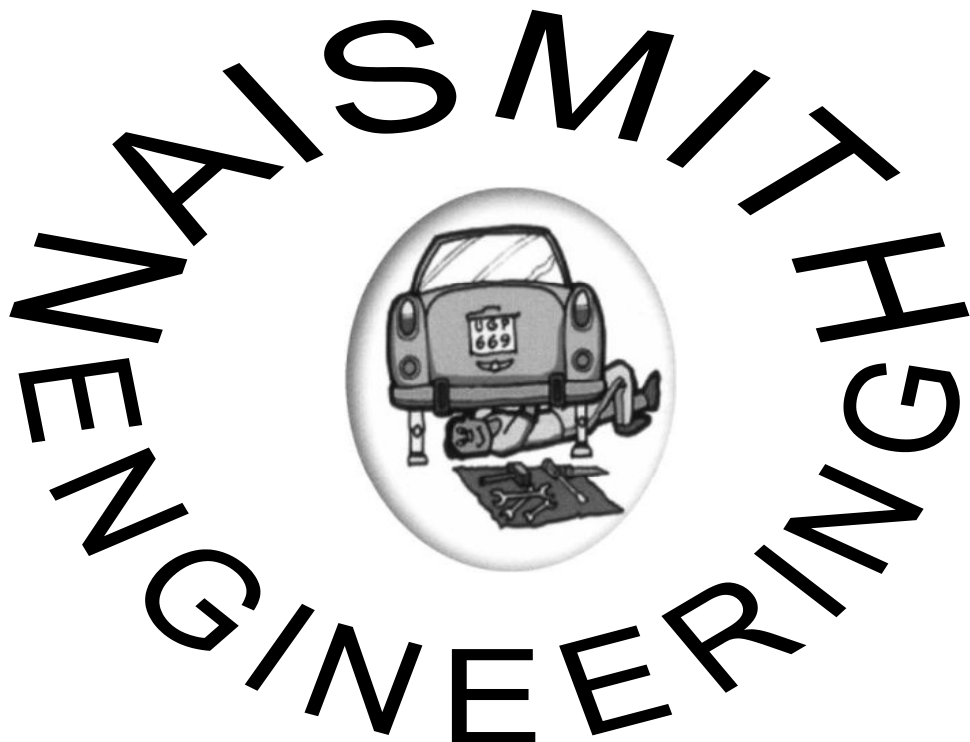
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