

Wimbledon Park Residents' Association



Christmas 2017

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Christmas edition 2017

Contents

Chairman's Report	4 & 5
Update from Stephen Hammond MP	6
Concrete Batching Plant	8,9 & 10
Will our Lancelot Heritage survive? (Dave Dawson)	12 & 14
Our contribution to the built environment	16,18 & 20
Pollution in Wimbledon Park (Pam Healy)	22
Wimbledon Park Community Trust	24
Helping ex military veterans	26
Friends of Wimbledon Park news	27 & 28
Join the WPRA	29
Wimbledon Park Crime Statistics (Ivan Scott)	30
Farewell to DeNica Fairman	32,33 & 34
DeNica says Cheerio	36 & 38
WPRA Committee list	40
Index of advertisers	42

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

Chairman's Report

AGM report

The AGM was held on the 19th October at 8pm. The meeting was well attended with about 50 residents present, including Cllrs. Oonagh Moulton and Linda Taylor. It was a good meeting and concluded at around 9.15pm with the usual drinks and tasty nibbles provided by Yasmin from Arthur's Café.

The financial position of the association continues to be healthy and there was a small surplus for the year. The main income is derived from advertising in the newsletter/magazine which has been improved greatly by being printed in colour. It is curious to note that the cost of colour printing is now less than it was in black and white. Newsletters (3,200) are distributed to virtually all households in the Ward.

The Chairman's report covered the current planning applications that were of concern and interest was expressed in the progress of the 'Woodman'. As far as we know, no new tenant has been found by Goldcrest. Recently Squatters had taken up residence (since the meeting they have been removed).

Preparations are being made to incorporate the Association. Nigel Israel has been paving the way for that. If accepted by the Charity Commission (CC) the association will become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), which is a sort of hybrid combined company and charity created by the Commission.

If the CC does not think we qualify as a charity, we will simply incorporate as a company limited by guarantee. In this day and age it is not sensible to run an organisation which exposes committee and members to unlimited liability.

Nick Steiner, Chairman of Friends of Wimbledon Park, gave an update on that association's current activities and plans. On pages 27 & 28 you will find an article describing some of the excellent initiatives being driven by the FOWP.

The Front Garden Awards were presented by Jill Farmer, who does a great job in organising the judging every year. Photos of the winning gardens were on display. (Details of the winners were published in the Summer newsletter.)

Cllr. Linda Taylor announced that she was not standing for re election at the next Council elections in May 2018. The Chairman, Cllr Moulton and residents present thanked her for all the excellent effort and help she has provided over the years.

Wimbledon Park Community Trust

You will see from the article on page 24 that the Trust has reached a stage in its

development that the trustees feel it can now afford to start awarding grants. This is a major step forward in fulfilling the long-term objectives of the Trust.

The trustees look forward to receiving interest from the community.

The latest available accounts for the Trust can be found on the association's website www.wimbledonpark.com.

Boundary commission

As many of you know, the revised proposals resulting from the consultations of September 2016 and March 2017 have been published on the Boundary Commission website. The association did respond to both consultations and largely took the same view as our MP Stephen Hammond and the Wimbledon Society with whom we conferred. In our view, the resulting revised constituency is very satisfactory and keeps Wimbledon Park and Wimbledon Village together.

The current consultation closes on the 11th December and, if you agree with the revised proposals, I urge you to write in and say so. It is just as important to register your agreement to the proposals as it is to object.

Concrete batching plant

Some of you will already know that the application we were strongly opposing, that was due to be heard at the Council's planning committee meeting in October, was withdrawn by officers at the last moment. This was due to the considerable efforts of a number of individuals, the association and ultimately with the help of professional legal advice. This matter is covered in detail in the article on pages 8, 9 and 10.

Pollution levels

In my last report I mentioned the problems of pollution, particularly in the area of Plough Lane. In the intervening period, we have taken steps to organise pollution measurement in several areas of the Ward. On page 22 you will find an article on this and the results of our findings. This is a matter in which we intend to take a close interest and will keep residents informed.

Finally, we are losing a stalwart and long-standing committee member who is moving away from the area. DeNica Fairman has made a great contribution to the association and community over those years and you will find a tribute to her, starting on page 32. We wish her and her partner Nigel great happiness in their new home.

A very Happy Christmas to you all and your families.

Update from Stephen Hammond MP

It has been another very busy year in Wimbledon and Westminster, not least due to the snap General Election! Below is an update on just some of the biggest things I have been working on in Wimbledon Park.

Wimbledon Police Station

I am extremely disappointed that the Mayor is continuing with his plans to close Wimbledon Police Station. This is despite our community making it very clear this proposal is unacceptable, through a petition signed by over 4,000 people and many responses to the consultation.

His report states that there is no significant operational issue with moving Wimbledon Police Station's facilities to Mitcham. This is simply not true as there will be no operational hub in Wimbledon, and Mitcham Police Station is simply not big enough to take on all the functions of Wimbledon Police Station. I raised these



concerns in person to the Deputy Mayor for Policing, and in writing to the Mayor.

Furthermore, the Mayor's consultation has been described by the Consultation Institute as the worst of 2017 due to a number of failures. I have written to him to ask that another consultation is held on best practice and plans to close Wimbledon Police Station are halted.

Wimbledon residents' victory on boundary proposals

I am delighted to say that the Boundary Commission have listened to the many Wimbledon residents who objected to their plans to cut our community in two, by keeping Wimbledon together in their latest proposals.

This was a spectacular effort from the people of Wimbledon who made it very clear for the second time how cohesive our community is. The strength of our submissions led to the Boundary Commission actually visiting Wimbledon and concluding that Wimbledon Park and Wimbledon Village are integral parts of the community. I would like to thank all those who submitted their views to the Boundary Commission.

Crossrail 2

Crossrail 2 remains one of the issues which concern local people the most, which was made clear at the three recent public meetings I held.

In March, at the request of the Government, TfL submitted an updated business case and funding plan for Crossrail 2 to the Department for Transport. However, since then there has been no news, <u>despite a number of questions I have asked in Parliament</u>.

As ever, I will continue to keep you updated. I will always post the latest news on Twitter (www.twitter.com/S_Hammond), on my Facebook page (www.facebook.com/stephenhammond.net) and my website www.stephenhammond.net

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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Concrete batching plant latest

Financial support from people across Wimbledon helped pay for a powerful legal challenge to plans for a concrete batching plant beside the peaceful Wandle Trail in Waterside Way.

The WPRA was among residents' associations contributing to the fund which, when it became clear that this application was supported by council planners, swiftly raised enough money to pay for the services of top environmental lawyer Richard Buxton. Many donations came in the form of £10 pledges from individuals concerned that Merton was failing to properly consider the air quality and traffic implications of the scheme, submitted by Express Concrete, a subsidiary of the Cappagh construction company.

The challenge to the concrete batching plant planning application (17/P0438) relied heavily on an informal transport survey organised by residents from the Haydons Road North Community group. That survey blew a hole in claims from the applicant that their scheme would "reduce HGV movements on the local road network (by about half)" and would be "beneficial to air quality in the vicinity of these roads".

Traffic survey data was unrepresentative

According to the applicant's transport statement, existing use of the site (an overnight parking lot for Cappagh vehicles) generates almost 200 HGV movements a day. This figure came from a one-day video survey of the site in December 2016, when a stream of HGVs was logged leaving and entering the site on an ongoing basis between 6am and 6pm.



However, from observation and by parking a car outside the site for three consecutive days and filming vehicle movements using a dashcam, residents established that this figure was vastly unrepresentative of everyday reality. The number of daily **HGV** movements totalled 34: less than a quarter of those recorded by the applicant. After a batch of lorries left the site at dawn, there were almost no HGV movements during the day

until the trucks returned to park for the night.

Approval "would be unlawful"

As lawyer Richard Buxton's letter to Merton Council pointed out: "It is clear that

traffic information provided to the Council is materially wrong or misleading... The Council cannot conceivably be confident that it has proper information before it to proceed...

"On the basis of what we set out in this letter it would be perverse and therefore unlawful for the Council as matters stand to grant permission."

An air quality assessment into the impact of the Express Concrete plans relied completely on figures supplied via its own transport assessment to conclude that the scheme would "be beneficial in reducing pollutant exposure to residents".

If approved, the concrete batching plant, proposed for a small site at the bottom of Waterside Way, off Plough Lane, would generate 86 HGV movements a day of vehicles including cement mixing lorries and trucks carrying aggregates: more than double existing HGV activity from that site. In a meeting with residents, the Chairman of Express Concrete Derek Casey stated that he considered this a low level of usage for a site of this type.



Can we trust Express Concrete?

Residents suspect that by submitting exaggerated claims about existing levels of HGV traffic emanating from the site, Express Concrete hoped to establish a baseline up to which they could subsequently apply for increased capacity from the Waterside Way site.

Similar has happened elsewhere. In Haringey N8, a company called London Concrete (interestingly, four of the five directors at Cappagh's Express Concrete subsidiary were formerly on the management board at London Concrete) won permission at appeal for a batching plant with a cap on permitted HGV movements. They later sought to have that raised by 300%, admitting as supporting evidence in their application that they had already been operating at the increased capacity level for some time.

The Transport Statement document submitted in support of that application came from the same team of consultants (Bellamy Roberts, Firstplan Ltd) used in Express Concrete's Waterside Way planning application, which Haringey Council planning officers concluded "was not a robust assessment of the likely impacts of the proposed increase in trips on the transportation and highways network".

What happens next?

Plans for the Express Concrete scheme in Waterside Way are on hold, after they were withdrawn at the last minute from October's meeting of the Merton planning committee.

The planning application is still live. Merton's planning portal still lists it for recommended approval. We learn from Merton planners that: "The applicant is considering how best to move forward and address the concerns." Should fresh information be provided, a further consultation period will be required.

In the meantime, it is worth noting that transport was not the only area where this application appeared wanting. Neither was it compliant with London and Merton policies on air quality, pollution, cumulative development, regional parks and recreation.

Some have said that by refusing the concrete batching scheme, we would be losing employment. However, the applicants made their transport calculations on the basis that all lorries currently based at the site would be removed from local roads (a questionable claim, since they are Cappagh vehicles, presumably carrying out work locally that would not cease), thus presumably removing HGV driver jobs too. If not, Express Concrete's claims that their scheme will reduce local HGV traffic are clearly wrong.

Traffic and air quality: a borough-wide concern

Meanwhile, the amount of HGV traffic on roads throughout the borough is a concern for residents in all areas, which is why a concrete batching plant off Plough Lane would have highways and air quality implications that reach far beyond our local streets. It also explains why people across the whole town swiftly donated to help fight this pernicious scheme.

Business has to take place somewhere, but lobbing a polluting scheme into an area where it will make things worse, based on incorrect information and in contravention of myriad policies cannot be right.

Visit <u>www.haydonsroadnorthcommunity.wordpress.com</u> to keep up to date with developments



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Will our Lancelot Brown heritage survive?

In the mid 1760s it took workers with barrows and horse carts about a year to create the dam to form the lake in Wimbledon Park. That lake is still there today. The lake is the central feature in the remnant open space that is recognised by Historic England as a Grade II* landscape. But that landscape is at risk. A year ago Historic England placed the heritage land on their "at risk" register because of:

"...uncertainty around the future, the impacts of divided ownership on landscape management, obscured designed views and the deteriorating condition of the lake".

Whilst we await the results of the overdue "Masterplan" promised by the London Borough of Merton, Historic England will not meet with the Friends of Wimbledon Park. Those who most enjoy the heritage land are left in the dark about what underlies the risk assessment. Rumours are rife.



Recently discovered picture of a view across the lake.

Origin unknown

The owners of Wimbledon Park Golf Course, the All England Lawn Tennis Club, have tried to buy back the long-term lease from the golf club. Why? AELTC's Masterplan does not include this part of their land, so we don't know what is planned there. The London Borough of Merton, too, have not revealed their decisions for the public park, which includes the

lake. In their consultation over a year ago, they proposed to de-silt the lake, move the café and reduce children's play space. There were options to move the athletics facilities.

The third owner, The Wimbledon Club, are keen on the heritage, but they haven't helped the vistas with their own huge green tennis shed by the lakeside, nor with the inflatable dome that dominates views in the winter.

Old trees have been removed on the golf course and dark skies have been compromised by floodlighting and streetlamps. These harm the habitat for birds and bats.

The lake has suffered numerous pollution incidents in recent years, killing large numbers of fish and birds. Eels seem to have disappeared from the lake. Large numbers of feral geese foul the grasslands and paths, and probably import pollution to the lake.

The water of the lake is eutrophic. The White Waterlilies once there have been lost. 70cm of silt has accumulated on the floor of the lake over the last 250 years.



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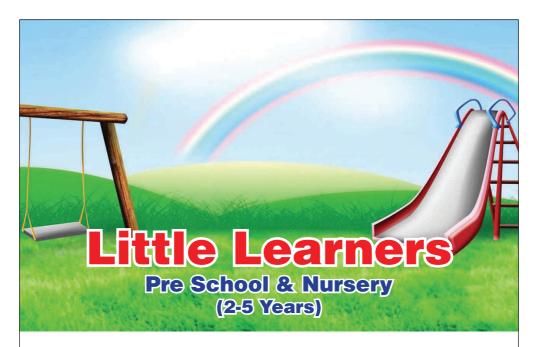


Perhaps to overcome this, the lake level is now held so high that a rainstorm can overtop the dam and flood the central parts of the public park. There's so much water held behind the dam that it requires regular inspection under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010: failure of the dam could threaten life.

Despite all this, the lake and its surrounds remain an important landscape. The lake is still essentially the same shape as it was when mapped by John Richardson for its owner, the first Earl Spencer, in 1768. It's still set in a landscape of grassland with woodland clumps. There's angling and water sports, just as there were for the Spencers and their influential guests. The heritage landscape is used for sports, just as it has been for the last 150 years. Festivals take place. The Wandle Vistas Project celebrates views across the lake and its surrounds. Many veteran oaks date back to Lancelot Brown's time, or even earlier. The lake is the best freely accessible place to see waterbirds and bats across a wide area of south-west London. Other species, too, thrive in the woodlands and grasslands of the rest of the heritage landscape. The quality of the lake water has improved in recent years. Although phosphate levels remain high, water sampling by school-children for their Duke of Edinburgh Awards has found no evidence of nitrogen pollution. The Friends of Wimbledon Park want to halt the decline and develop proposals to enhance the lake.

What is needed to build upon this is a Masterplan for the whole heritage landscape. This should aim, not only to get it off the "at risk" register, but also to reinforce its use. Planning should be done in the open and with all interests represented around the table. The lake can have waterlilies again, fish numbers can be restored, the veteran trees can be protected, light "spillage" can be minimised and enforcement action and interception can reduce pollution. The tributary brooks can be brought above ground. Swallows, martins, terns and kingfishers can be attracted to breed at the lake. Intrusive buildings can be demolished or moved. Water depths can be managed. Sports will thrive in an enhanced setting. The dam can be kept safe. Those who love the landscape want to help with this.





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OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

For those interested in our local built environment and how it gradually changes over the years, I recommend to look at the recently published "Wimbledon & Southfields Through Time" from the Amberley Local History Series that features a comprehensive collection of 'then and now' photographs of our neighbourhood.

Amongst other historical data, the 'then' photographs capture very well the character of the area from the period of the extension of the Metropolitan District Railway, now the District Line, from Putney to Southfields and Wimbledon in 1889 to the first decades of the last century.

Even my road in The Grid running parallel to the railway, Normanton Avenue (then Clonmore Road), features with newly planted trees and the road still to be paved with a horse and cart. In high contrast, the 'now' photograph has second or third generation mature trees and the ubiquitous cars parked in its full length, obliterating the long views.

If one wanted to characterise the Wimbledon Park area in a simple manner referring to the residential stock, it is safe to say that it retains a strong dominant Edwardian feel, while larger public buildings, schools and churches denote a stronger late Victorian influence. Wimbledon Town Centre has been the subject of far more intense redevelopment over the years but still retains a Victorian feel in its scale at least if not its architecture. In the Village and the area around the Common it is possible to identify examples of Georgian architecture interspersed with a variety of primarily larger residential buildings of freely mixed styles from various historical periods which have made Wimbledon such a special sought after area to live in until today.

One has to wonder though, whether in the future and looking back, will it be possible to categorise what has been the contribution to the built environment in our area since the 1950's.

The First and Second World Wars with its economical and social impact, the introduction of new building technologies and the advent of the International Modern movement in the art and architecture set a new agenda for the built environment.

The 1950's and 60's saw a drive for social housing as a solution to the critical post-war residential problem. The 70's and 80's saw an expansion of the commercial and retail market resulting in the proliferation of out of town superstores and shopping centres to the detriment of the town centres everywhere.

From the mid 80's, 90's and into the new century, the realization that the cities could be regenerated and increased in density expressed itself in London in particular with the regeneration of the Thames corridor, Canary Wharf and the east

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end culminating with the regeneration associated with the London Olympics.

All this through the last sixty odd years has been expressed in a variety of architectural 'styles' ranging from brutalism, vernacular revivalism, the high tech movement, post-modernism, de-constructivism and minimalism, to mention some of the architectural influential movements experienced during the period.

To a great extent, Wimbledon with its suburban location has escaped this trend. Except for the eclectic redevelopment of the Town Centre with its mismatch collection of 20th century second half buildings and timid open-ended public spaces, the remainder of the largely residential areas retain their late Victorian-Edwardian character.

So we go back to the question how to categorise and define the character of our generation's contribution to the built environment in Wimbledon. Where are the buildings that are improving our environment? Where are the developments that respond to society's current challenges and make a sustainable contribution to our environment?

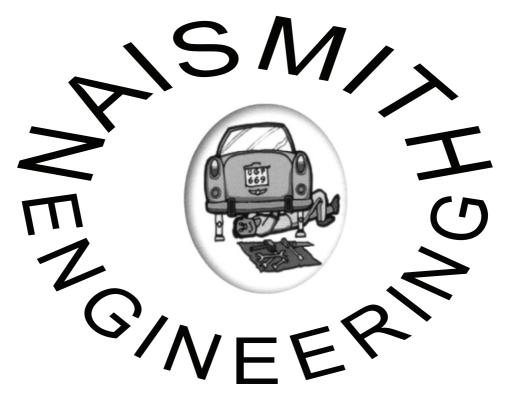
Some remarkable examples in my view are the following:



Centre Court Shopping centre, with its sensitive integration of Listed Buildings into a large town centre redevelopment.

The Garden Hall, a contemporary addition within St Mary's Church curtilage.





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22 Parkside, a seminal work by Richard Rogers from 1967, signalling the advent of the High Tech Movement worldwide.

The All England Lawn Tennis Club, with its constant up-grading and renovation, a leading sport and leisure venue set in a residential area.

Perhaps the answer is that in our area we should also look more carefully at the small



projects which are quietly changing the character of our local environment rather than only scrutinising the larger developments.

What is your view?

Mario L Avendano, RIBA

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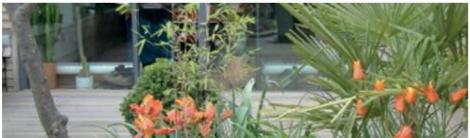
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Air Pollution in Wimbledon Park Ward

During July and September we installed air pollution monitors supplied by Friends of the Earth (FoE) around the Wimbledon Park Ward. These monitors measure the amount of nitrogen dioxide in the air and provide a snapshot of the pollution present at that time. Nitrogen dioxide is a toxic gas which inflames the lining of the lungs. The legal annual limit is 40 micrograms per cubic metre (ug/m3), but there are no safe levels of exposure to air pollution. It is estimated that air pollution causes 40,000 early deaths per year and stunts the development of children's lungs. In 2014 Public Health England published their findings using data from 2010 and estimated that air pollution (particulate matter) was attributable to 82 early deaths in the over 25s in Merton.

Our pollution monitoring results show a mixture of medium and high levels of pollution; not surprisingly the area around the Plough Lane / Haydons Road junction exceeds the EU legal mean annual limit for nitrogen dioxide. Although our results are a snapshot and are not directly comparable to annual data, as over a year the weather varies considerably and levels of pollution with it, so the annual mean results could look very different. Air pollution also comes in different forms; nitrogen dioxide is one, alongside particulate matter and ozone – all with negative health impacts.

The WPRA will use these results to argue against any development that would increase pollution levels in the Wimbledon Park Ward, such as the Concrete Batching Plant.

The results from the diffusion tubes required calibration and adjusting alongside government figures. This is called bias adjustment. FoE have spoken to experts in monitoring and have adjusted our results for accuracy, using a bias correction factor for the type of diffusion tubes used. This involved multiplying our results by 0.9.

3 Adjusted results, in μg/m (micrograms per cubic metre)

Location	Results	Adjusted Results
Kohat Road	26.93	24.24
Plough Lane	41.25	37.12
Cromwell Road/ Haydons Road junction	49.89	44.90
Plough Lane/Haydons Road junction	59.71	53.74
Wellington Road outside school/Durnsford Rec	17.60	15.84
Durnsford Road/ Endeavour Way junction	25.51	22.96
Arthur Road outside tube station	26.67	24.00
Durnsford Road/ Havana Rd by pelican crossing	29.75	26.77



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The Wimbledon Park Community Trust

The Wimbledon Park Community Trust was incorporated in October 2013 and subsequently registered as a charity.

The objects of the charity are:

'The promotion of the benefits of the inhabitants of Wimbledon Park and the neighbourhood thereof (hereinafter called the area of benefit) without distinction, by the advancement of education and the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.'

The Trust has a lease (99 years from 2013) from The London Borough of Merton, on the space known as Wimbledon Park Hall including the adjoining Arthur's Café at 170 Arthur Road.

The main income of the Trust is derived from renting the hall and café.

The operation of these facilities has built up in a satisfactory way. The Trustees consider the financial position of the Trust has reached a point where the Trust should consider awarding grants. We are, therefore, now inviting applications from the community.

Guidelines:

Overall the application of grant monies must be used in accordance with the objects of the charity and be of public benefit. Applications can be made by individuals, groups, established organisations or existing charities.

- The total limit of awards will be £10,000 for the current financial year.
- The maximum grant size that can be applied for is £5,000.
- The minimum grant size that can be applied for is £500, except in exceptional circumstances.
- The Trustees will have total discretion on awarding grants.
- All applications must give proper detail of the intended use of the grant money and what the ultimate benefit/outcome will, or is expected to, be.
- No grants will be given for revenue purposes; only for capital spending projects.

Applications should be in writing and sent to:

Wimbledon Park Community Trust, 56 Home Park Road, SW19 7HN.

The closing date for applications is the 28th February 2018.

All applications will be acknowledged.

The latest available accounts for the charity can be found at www.wimbledonpark.com

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Would you like to help Ex-Military Veterans in Merton?

We are pleased to report that the Royal British Legion are funding a Project in the Borough of Merton to help Ex-Military Veterans who suffer from drug or alcohol dependency or other mental health issues to enlist on a programme of recovery in 2018, to achieve long term good health and well-being, and fulfil their full creative potential as individuals and be part of a new "regimented support group", Veterans working together with Civilians.

The overall Project is called "Veterans' Voices" and will be under "the command" of two former Household Cavalry Officers, Nicky Winter, Life Guards, and Billy Steel, Blues and Royals, both of whom saw active service in the Middle East in 1956 and have had experience of working in the field of addiction for the past 25 years by successfully sharing their own experience of recovery.

Official statistics tell us that there are over 200,000 people living in Merton and the London Veterans' Service records that there are over 20,000 Veterans in the borough, 10% of the population. A further survey by the Royal Army Medical Corps carried out by King's College Military Unit in February 2014 stated that 1 in 4 Veterans who have seen active service are drinking too heavily. A further 5 people are affected by this.

The Project will be organised in collaboration with CDARS in Wimbledon Chase; the Borough's well established Community Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service, which will enable the Veterans to integrate into the local community and work as a team with the Civilian participants on the programme. We will be working closely with all other relevant organisations in the Borough to signpost Veterans to the help that they need. The Project is open to all Veterans and their families, whether male or female, and age or rank does not matter. It is free to participants who will genuinely benefit from the programme and will in their turn give something back to the community.

The programme starts in January 2018 and there will be 4 courses of 12 weeks each during the year. Monday will be Veterans' Day, attending a programme tailor made for them, but they will also be eligible to attend all the other sessions taking place on every other day of the week, to join in with the rest of the group and enjoy access to the Drop In Café which is open in the evenings and on Saturday. The programme includes substance misuse recovery treatment, a recovery café, life skills educational workshops to support participants' employment training or educational needs, support with budgeting, money management and housing, help to build positive social networks and general health services including health promotion and support with disabilities. Modules will include Art, Music and Writing courses.

Please help us to expand the boundaries of Veterans' Voices to help and support the most worthy of human resources, our Veteran Men and Women. Contact us by emailing this address and we will send you a Video in December about the Project and invite you to our first "Think Tank Meeting" in January 2018.

Veterans' Voice, c/o CDARS Engage Merton, 296 Kingston Road, Wimbledon Chase, SW20 8LX veterans@cdars.org.uk 0203 8728217

Friends of Wimbledon Park (FOWP) news

It has been another busy and eventful year for FOWP! Certain ventures, e.g. The Duke of Edinburgh (DOE) Awards in conjunction with students from St. Cecilia's School, are evolving; exciting new initiatives, e.g. bat survey and becoming a Charter Branch of the Woodland Trust have come to fruition whilst other, more long standing activities such as litter picking and tree planting/weeding continue to flourish. Here is a taster of some of the things that we have done this year.

Woodland Trust

Earlier on this year we became a Charter Branch of the Woodland Trust and joined a network of people who are as passionate about trees and woodland as we are. The Woodland Trust introduced their exciting Tree Charter initiative this year. The Tree Charter aims to protect the public's right to access trees and woodland spaces and to secure better preservation of woodland. The Woodland Trust pledged to plant a tree, somewhere in the UK, for every person who signed the Tree Charter. Fortunately we managed to get quite a few signatures!

We have been gifted a young Hornbeam as part of the Tree Charter initiative. This will be planted in the park on 3rd December. Whilst this is still a sapling, we are hoping that, as the years go by, it will grow into a lovely and impressive addition to the public park which, as far as we know, does not include any Hornbeams at present. Is this a first?!

Tree planting weekend

As if to illustrate Wimbledon Park's visitors' interest in trees, there was a great turnout of volunteers to help with tree planting at the edge of Horse Close Wood earlier on in the year. We planted 400 young oak, lime, hawthorn, blackthorn and wild rose, which means that 1,400 trees have been planted in the last year. The 1,000 saplings that were planted in 2016 are doing well, despite the dry spring.

The Glade in Horse Close Wood

Horse Close Wood Glade is flourishing. It was sectioned off following work done by the National Grid but the vegetation is now robust. Eighty-four species of plants have been identified. This is seventy-four more than when the National Grid departed the site! One of the unusual flowers that we found there is the Yellow-flag Iris. This is a wetland flower. Its seeds have probably been in the soil for decades, dating back to when the soil was wetter. The 'disturbance' caused by the National Grid works coupled with light gave it, and other wetland flowers, a chance to germinate.

Breaking news: the fence is to be removed soon so that the public can better enjoy the space!

Bat Survey

Did you know that the Heritage Wimbledon Park, with its varied landscape, is home to seven species of bat? (Pipistrellus pygmaeus, Pipistrellus pipistrellus, Nathusius's pipistrelle, Serotine, Daubenton's, Leisler's and Noctules.) These were confirmed in our recent bat survey. The funding for this survey was

provided by the National Grid through compensation for the 'disturbance' in Horse Close Wood. The survey's aim was to assess potential impacts on bats and their roosts posed by any landscape changes.

Wandle Fortnight 9th-24th September

FOWP participated in the Wandle Fortnight festivities. This was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to both discover and enjoy the wonderful Wandle Regional Park of which we are now a part. Three activities were set up, culminating in a celebratory walk of Capability Brown's Heritage Park on 24th September when approximately 25 people joined us for a guided tour of the park followed by tea at The Wimbledon Club.

Wandle Vistas

FOWP is part of this exciting project which seeks to identify, describe and celebrate the qualities of the most unique and iconic vistas within the Wandle Valley Basin. Wimbledon Park has been shortlisted as one of the potentially special sites for this project. There are many different park vistas that could be used for this project. Photographs of different vistas from different areas throughout the Heritage Park were taken highlighting historical, geographical as well as natural and urban features and these give a real sense of the differing Wandle Valley land-scapes. This project will finish in November 2017.

And finally ... rare sighting at Wimbledon Park Lake!



A rare Egret was spotted on the lake edge in late August. What type of Egret it was created much discussion! Who knew there were so many Egrets to choose from?! Eventually our experts suggested that it was most likely the rare Great Egret. This species is seen occasionally in the UK and has been known to breed in Somerset and Norfolk. Only about 15 sightings are made in and around London each year so it was indeed very exciting news.

To find out more, please go to: www.friendsofwimbledonark.org.uk We are also on Facebook @Friends of Wimbledon Park

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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//

Wimbledon Park Ward Crime Statistics	Stati	istics													
September	201 6			201	•	•	•	•		•	•		12 Month	Average	% of
2017	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	e G	Mar	Apr	Мау	Jun	Jul	Au	S _e	Total	per Month	To- tal
Vehicle Crime	21	28	19	12	20	16	7	6	10	9	8	6	165	14	20
Violence and Sexual Offences	8	7	11	9	12	11	15	10	14	12	13	26	145	12	18
Anti-Social Behaviour	12	13	5	7	10	8	19	18	15	12	8	11	138	12	17
Other Theft	3	8	4	16	10	2	8	8	10	6	24	4	109	6	13
Criminal Damage and Arson	9	6	5	8	5	9	9	6	9	4	3	5	69	9	8
Burglary	4	8	9	9	4	9	2	2	10	9	7	4	68	9	8
Shoplifting	9	2	2	1	1	0	3	1	2	5	7	1	34	3	4
Bicycle Theft	1	1	0	1	1	2	2	4	4	4	3	4	30	3	4
Public Order	1	5	4	0	0	1	4	2	4	3	2	3	29	2	4
Theft from the Person	1	1	2	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	10	1	1
Other Crime	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	6	1	1
Drugs	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	8	1	1
Robbery	0	0	0	0	-	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	0
Possession of Weapons	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	67	80	61	09	99	57	77	64	78	63	92	69	818	89	100



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Farewell to DeNica

Sadly, we are saying farewell to DeNica Fairman, our membership secretary and communications guru - a job she has been doing incredibly faithfully for many years. However, there is much more than this to DeNica's involvement in the community.

I think it is true to say that DeNica first made her mark on the community in 2006 when she led the campaign to stop an Orange mobile mast being erected on top of a building with residential flats in Arthur Road.

Such was her enthusiasm and determination that a huge group of protestors was galvanised into action, leading to mass meetings, Radio interviews and ultimately a petition handed to No.10 Downing Street. The owner of the building, despite being attracted by a substantial financial incentive from Orange, was eventually convinced to back down.





Fortunately for us, later on that year, she joined the WPRA committee and subsequently took over the role of Membership Secretary and acting as communications hub.

In 2008 the WPRA decided to recognise the Centenary of Wimbledon Park by holding an 'Edwardian Fair' in the Athletic Stadium in Wimbledon Park. DeNica volunteered to be chief organiser and managed to corral a huge team of helpers. The Fair was a great success and raised an amazing total of about £6,000. Part of the motivation for holding the Fair was to raise money for the long-awaited new hall to be built on the site of the old village hall in Arthur Road. Fired up by the

success of the fair, DeNica subsequently bravely took on the organising of another Fair the following year. This was even more successful and raised about £7,000. After this massive personal effort she wisely retired from organising fairs.



DeNica and Nigel

Always willing to pitch in on any major project, you can see a picture (below) of the team (with Nigel!) working to clear up the Jubilee flower bed in Durnsford Rec in 2011.



In 2012 she was responsible for organising with Merton Tree wardens the planting of the fruit hedge in Durnsford Rec. This has since matured into an attractive and

productive addition to the landscape in Durnsford Rec.



DeNica with Mayor

Judy Saunders

Also in the same year she organised the very successful wild flower planting in Durnsford Rec.



What I have described is only a few but nevertheless very important highlights of the great contribution DeNica has made to our community. She is a fine example of interest in and preparedness to commit to community issues, despite the usual pressures of a working career. We are extremely grateful and wish her and Nigel well in their new home in Dorking.

lain Simpson

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CHEERIO NEIGHBOURS!

I moved to Wimbledon Park 13 years ago in 2004 from Queen's Park, North London, passport in hand!

It seemed like such a long way away from 'town' but that is what I wanted. It really felt as though I was in the country but still on the tube line. Couldn't have been better.

Now I am travelling the tried and tested route of so many Wimbledonians apparently, by going DOWN even further...to the Surrey Hills. Craving even MORE country!

Over the past few years Wimbledon Park has been a wonderful area to live. I remember looking at an A-Z when I first arrived – yes – that long ago, and noticed that there was a river virtually on our doorstep. I went out on my bicycle looking for it shortly afterwards only to find it particularly inaccessible. I actually ended up in the traveller's site at Trewint St Bridge trying to find a way back to Durnsford Rd. The traveller kids surrounded me and told me there was no through route back to Wimbledon Park from there. That seemed crazy to me and initiated one of my many 'campaigns' in the area, to try to help the people living here to be able to enjoy The Wandle's grassy banks and fast flowing water they live right next to. I soon realised that I wasn't the first person to attempt this, as WPRA - in particular Cécile Bridgens, who was on the committee for many years, had started her campaign to achieve this in the early 1990's! WPRA have been campaigning to achieve this connection now for nearly 30 years! And on it goes...

Hopefully, with all of the changes coming up in the area, there may be some money left over to create access for Wimbledon Park residents to walk/cycle along the Wandle, possibly via Durnsford Rec. I live in hope.

I remember the first time I went to a committee meeting to ask if WPRA would support me in trying to block an Orange mobile phone mast being installed on top of Estella's Wine Bar in Arthur Rd. I was very nervous but delivered my plea and then waited while the committee discussed what they wanted to do. To my relief they were supportive straight away, as many understood the potential dangers of having such a strong electro-magnetic aerial a few feet from peoples' homes, school and nurseries. Thus started a huge campaign which ended with a 5,000 signature petition delivered to Tony Blair, the then Prime Minister, on the steps of Downing St. We were even on London Tonight! The mast was never installed.



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A few years later, I was standing on my upstairs window ledges washing my windows when lain Simpson, WPRA Chairman came walking down the road with a request. "As you seem to be sticking around, would you like to be my Vice Chair?" I realised by that time what a massive amount of work lain does for the community – often single handed - and that he could really use the support. I had no hesitation "Yes, that would be great. Thanks!" I called down, cloth in hand. "OK, we'll put it to a vote at the AGM"

A lot has happened to improve this beautiful area over the years thanks to WPRA and the community. Even though some members can disagree with others over certain developments, everyone ultimately cares hugely for Wimbledon Park and wants what is best for it.

I'm particularly proud of what we have all achieved in Durnsford Rec – (how I wish it had a decent name) – which was once described by local history website Edith's Streets as an "underwhelming" "little known space". Now it has so many lovely features including a Black Poplar tree to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Surely this little gem deserves 'park' status, especially if it becomes part of the Wandle Valley Regional Park which it was earmarked to do initially, lying so near to the banks of the river itself.

I shall be leaving Wimbledon Park with mixed feelings. While I feel that it's definitely time for the next chapter of my life with my partner Nigel, I have been so happy living here in this little oasis in London. I will be leaving behind a very warm, welcoming, close-knit community but I will hopefully come back to visit once a year at least for the fabulous Wimbledon Tennis fortnight. Thanks to letting out the top floor of the house to tennis players and coaches etc. over the years, I've been lucky enough to go to the tournament several times each season to support friends in their matches. That is a privilege I will definitely not be moving away from!

Thank you to everyone who has supported me, my campaigns and WPRA over the years. I wish you all the best of everything for Christmas and the New Year to come.

DeNica Fairman



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W.P.R.A. Committee 2017/2018

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/Planning	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	56 Home Park Road	SW19 7HN
Editor		
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

Residents of the area around the top of Haydons Road are enjoying micro-community news thanks to a new informational blogsite set up by people living in that area, including Havelock, Kohat and Kingsley Roads, the area of Plough Lane and Gap Road around the junction, Avondale Road, and the eastern ends of Haydon Park and Cromwell Roads plus Caxton Road.

You can follow them on twitter @HaydonsNorth or via their blogsite: haydonsroad-northcommunity.wordpress.com Signing up to the blog means you receive an email alert every time a new blog is published.

Current concerns for the group, which emphasises it is NOT a residents association, include improvements to the neglected parade of shops at the top of Haydons Road, traffic and air quality, but they also share all sorts of extremely local information specific to their streets. They recently sent a letter to Secretaries of State Michael Gove and Sajid Javid alerting them to the concrete batching plans for Waterside Way, an area used by many local residents for exercise and dog walking as well as a quiet cut-through to schools and the Plough Lane stores.

Advertising in this magazine

Contact Pamela Healy pam.2015@outlook.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO DELIVER OUR NEWSLETTER

We need volunteers to deliver our newsletter to each of the following roads Havelock Road, Kingsley Road, Kohat Road, and Gap Road. If you live in any of these roads and could spare an hour or so three times a year to deliver our newsletter in your road - and possibly others - we would be very grateful.

We will deliver the newsletters for your road to your door. If you would like to help please contact Pamela Healy at pam.2015@outlook.com.

Index of Advertisers

Accounting	ABK Accountancy and Tax Services	7
Ballet	Siegeris School of Dance	44
	Carmela Guida School of Ballet	39
Café	Arthur's Café	23
Carpenter	Daniel Smith	13
Engineering	Naismith Engineering	19
Environmental design	Tectonics	27
Estate Agents	Burlington	43
	IMI Property Solutions	17
	Robert Holmes	31
Gifts and Cards	Chalk	13
Hockey Club	Mitcham Hockey Club	37
Locksmiths	Oakley Locksmiths Ltd	39
Legal and Financial	Z Group	35
Painting & Decoration	Nigel Plumbe	39
Plumbing	Adam's Plumbing	7
Restaurants	Chicken Cottage	25
	Lupo Bros	37
Schools	Little Learners	15
Solicitors	McGlennons	21
Stain Glass & Leaded lights	Coriander	11
Windows	SPS Timber Windows	2

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