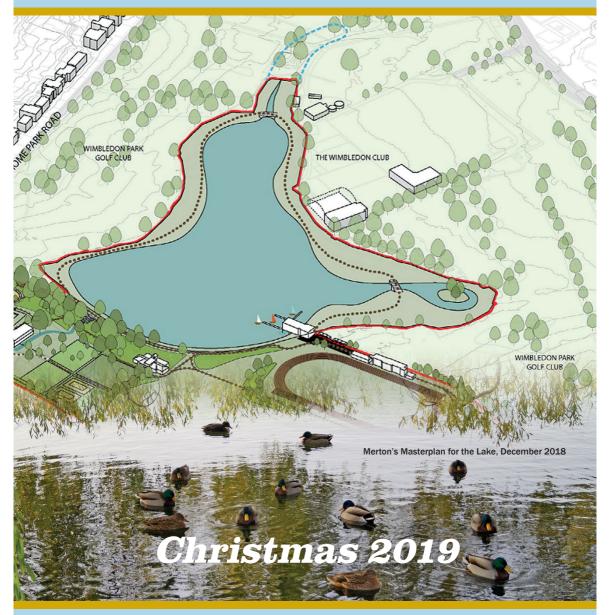


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Christmas edition 2019

Contents

Chairman's Report	4 & 5
Update from Councillors	6 & 7
Our environment is work in progress	8 & 9
Introducing Wimbledon Park PLUS	10
A Story of Regeneration (Oak Montessori)	12 & 14
How to ruin a Masterpiece	16 & 17
Crime Statistics	18 & 19
Zebra Crossing	20
All About U3A	22
Democracy and 5G	24,26 & 28
10 Things to know about your local Windmill	30 & 31
Wimbledon Park Community Trust	32
Update from Friends of Wimbledon Park	34,35 & 36
Committee list	40
Advertising index	42

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

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

Chairman's Report



WPRA Committee visit to the Mayor's Parlour in September

Stephen Hammond MP, Mayor Cllr Janice Howard and Tony Borkowski attending the WPRA AGM in October



An update from your councillors

<u>Bonfire night:</u> For anyone who attended the Wimbledon Park 'bonfire', whilst the fireworks display was a good one, many were disappointed by the lack of a bonfire! We all want to take steps to help air quality and combat climate change, but many local authorities are able to run bonfires in a sustainable manner, using smaller and shorter-lived bonfires and dry untreated wood.

There was no prior consultation or dialogue from the Council before cancelling the bonfire and unfortunately Merton Council chose not to inform councillors. Many residents pointed out that there were endless diesel generators in use across the site throughout the entire evening. There is also a concern that without a public bonfire, many will choose to attend smaller private bonfires, which are less regulated and cause much more pollution.

The local community is also puzzled at how the Council seems to have taken such a kneejerk reaction to a public bonfire, when through the summer it seems to encourage as many barbeques in the park as possible. Ward councillors are taking these issues up with the Council to see if there are more sensible solutions.

<u>Paddling Pool:</u> Meanwhile, there is still no solution to the closure of our park's Elisabeth Pool. We carried out formal FOI requests and it turns out that there are no records of any maintenance / service logs on the paddling pool, despite funding being in place to cover this. The Council is still debating whether any works are required to resolve the issues and ward councillors are working with the Council officers to demand that the pool will be up and running again in time for next summer.

<u>Parking Permit charges:</u> Many residents have asked us about the status of the Council's plans to double the cost of our parking permits in Wimbledon. There was talk at the end of summer of the new charges being suspended, with some councillors even announcing a 'historic victory' after the 'call-in' to the Council's scrutiny committee. Our motion against the new charges was the only substan-

tive motion brought opposing the charges, but was unfortunately voted down. The new parking permit charges for Wimbledon will therefore come into effect in January with no changes.

New Pocket Park and more trees: Lastly, some good news on two fronts: our plans to restore the abandoned pocket park at the Plough Lane / Gap Road cross-roads are taking shape. Please contact Cllr Ed Gretton (edward.gretton@merton.gov.uk) if you have any suggested names for the new gardens that will hopefully open during 2020. Also ward councillors have been lobbying the Council to bring trees to Waldemar Road, which to date has remained treeless. This has been a success and we expect Waldemar Road to receive its first tree plantings over the winter.

A very happy Christmas to all of our residents and your families!

Cllr Ed Gretton Cllr Janice Howard (Mayor of Merton) Cllr Oonagh Moulton

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OUR ENVIRONMENT IS WORK IN PROGRESS

For those of us living in Wimbledon and surrounding areas that have a particular interest in how our built environment evolves, we are often drawn to the changes taking place with large residential and commercial schemes. This is probably because of their scale and the potential impact on our way of living, in comparison with smaller projects in other sectors that have quietly taken place, improving our environment without much fuss and controversy.

These projects sometimes entail simple alterations and extensions to existing buildings; sometimes change of use and redevelopments; in other instances, just careful restoration and refurbishment.



One interesting example nearby was the recent construction of the Tara Arts Theatre in Garratt Lane providing a much welcome successful performing arts venue for the area.

Another example of making an existing building and site viable for current demands can be seen at the junction of Plough Lane and Durnsford Road where the incorporation of mixed uses has enabled the Kingdom Hall, a religious building, to remain serving the community.



Other projects to come to fruition require a long gestation period, a long-term vision, and a belief and sound master planning. One such good example of this is the Shree Ghanapathy Temple at Effra Road, Wimbledon.

Visionary members of the Sri Lankan Hindu families living in and around Wimbledon made the construction of the Temple possible when back in 1980 they acquired the largely dilapidated site of the Churchill Halls. For the past thirty-eight years, through hard effort and work from the founding community, the site has been the subject of continuous redevelopment, creating the current facilities that play an outstanding role housing the integration of a multitude of activities for the whole local community.

From an architectural perspective, the current external work is underway to complete the Main Tower Gateway into the Temple, bringing to the outside the exquisite detailed ornamentation that has guided the interiors of the Temple.





The scale of the Temple sits harmoniously within the surrounding residential buildings along Effra Road. The quality of the design and craftsmanship of the frontage provides a new reference point for our local built environment.

It is always so rewarding to review buildings that improve our built environment by ticking the right boxes at so many levels for the benefit of our community. This continues to be work in progress!

Mario L Avendano, RIBA

Introducing Wimbledon Park PLUS – from screen to green

According to Natural Childhood, a report by the National Trust, children aged 11 years + spend half of their waking lives in front of a screen, (40% more than a decade ago), and 20 hours a week online. This, along with the childhood obesity epidemic and the demise of children's mental wellbeing, is not what we want for children. As parents to children who are now 8 years +, we are initiating the introduction of new facilities for older children into the beautiful and local Wimbledon Park so that children are outside playing, socialising, learning new skills and getting exercise with their peers in their own neighbourhood.

Our initial plan involves the installation of outdoor table tennis tables. We were inspired by 'The Tables', a documentary about how two table tennis tables in a New York city park brought a community together and transformed people's lives https://www.jonbunning.com/the-tables. The table tennis tables could be used all year round, are accessible to wheelchair users, don't require previous experience or expensive equipment and, most importantly, are great fun.

Our plan for improving the park for older children doesn't stop there...we'd love to see tennis backboards/hitting boards installed so that people can practice their tennis; basketball nets and an improved miniature golf facility. The proposed upgrades to the park are relatively low cost and represent great value for money in terms of the benefits to the local community.

We are benefitting from the support of the Wimbledon Park Residents' Association, Friends of Wimbledon Park, some local families and next we are speaking with Merton Council. If you would like to lend support or have any ideas as to how we can bring our plans to fruition and get our children 'from screen to green', please get in touch with us on wimbledonparkplus@gmail.com.



Thanks, Local Mums, Lucy and Julie

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A Story of Regeneration by two local Mumpreneurs

Two local educators and mothers, passionate about embedding 21st century skills for young people in a fast-moving world, made it their business this year to bring a nursery for young children to life in their local park, where little ones could make the most of indoor and outdoor learning opportunities in a healthy environment every day.

Natasha Rawdon-Rego had visited 40 locations for her nursery school, before stumbling across a rather sad and empty half of the Bowling Pavilion in Wimbledon Park, whilst walking with her two-week old son. Despite busy working lives and young children, Charlotte Wheeler and Natasha set upon the transformation that would have to happen to make it 'nursery-school-ready'. They could not have achieved this without idverde who championed the concept from the beginning and both parties were willing to invest in the project to make it a reality.



BEFORE

Natasha, a Montessori Directress, and Charlotte, an Educational Consultant and former Prep School Deputy Head, joined forces to bring about The Oak Montessori, a nursery school in the heart of their beloved Wimbledon Park. In January 2019 works started with the aim of bringing the outdoors inside. They wished to honour the setting of the park, from a school wood effect floor, montessori wooden equipment and community play things furniture, through to the levels of



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light and greenery indoors - all a part of their Montessori vision.

"The child has a different relation to his environment from ours...

the child absorbs it.

The things he sees are not just remembered; they form part of his soul."

Maria Montessori

A happy, healthy and safe environment was at the forefront of all decision-making processes with local advice from the Merton Early Years team in advance of their Ofsted approval. Natasha and Charlotte were intent on developing independent thinkers in a child-led environment where teamwork and respect for both the natural habitat and others were key. Here is a story of regeneration for future generations achieved in just a few short months when vision, commitment, hard work and community collaboration come together. Local artist Catriona Tyrwhitt was commissioned to bring The Oak Montessori's ethos to life in local advertising, and doors opened to 30 local families this September.



AFTER

This is a positive story of regeneration on our doorstep and hope that many young children can benefit from the space over the years to come.

If you are a local artist, author or teacher, The Oak Montessori would love to hear from you for their community collaboration projects.

www.theoakmontessori.com@theoakmontessori





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How to ruin a masterpiece

Wimbledon Park Lake is, apart from a few veteran oaks, the only surviving element of Capability Brown's transformation of Wimbledon Park in the 1760's for John, 1st Earl Spencer. It incorporates the delightful visual features of a Brownian lake, which made him so sought after as an "improver" of parks for many of Britain's Georgian aristocratic families.

In particular, the Lake is designed to be curving or serpentine in form, so that wherever anyone stands by its edge, there will always be some parts of the Lake that can never be seen. (See, for example, https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/how-to-spot-a-capability-brown-landscape). Indeed, Brown was noted for trying to make any body of still water look like it was a river to achieve these particular effects. (See "Moving Heaven and Earth" by Steffie Shields, ISBN 978-1-910787-15-1, p.71, p.78, p. 85).

Brown's solution for the grounds of Wimbledon Park (and Blenheim Palace) involved the application of a "tricorn" design, where pronounced convex sides directly opposed concave banks on the opposite shore. (Shields, p 79). Brown used the natural shape of the local catchment area in Wimbledon Park, but likely added extra curvature to achieve his desired effects.

All these designs create the illusion that the water is never-ending, is limitless, it goes on forever. This is the key to understanding why Brown's designs look so interesting, so engaging, and ultimately so beautiful.

18th century illustrations of Wimbledon Park Lake highlight the extent to which Brown pursued such sinuous designs, and made a potentially dull site into something very interesting; that is, allowed the landscape to realise its "capabilities".



Part of a hand drawn map of Wimbledon Park, c 1783



From the Corris map of Wimbledon, prepared for 2nd Earl Spencer, 1787

Let us now look at the proposal from Merton for their ideas for the Lake as taken from their "Wimbledon Park and Lake Masterplan December 2018". (See https://www.merton.gov.uk/leisure-recreation-and-culture/parks-and-open-spaces/parks-and-recreation-grounds/wimbledon/wimbledon-park/wimbledon-park-master-plan).

The main point to take on board is that the Lake, and its treasured outline, will be irrevocably changed to accommodate thousands of cubic metres of silt dredged up from the bottom to meet the requirements of "watersports". (Being very expensive to remove off site, the 72,000 cubic metres of "problematic" silt will be redistributed around the Lake edge.)



Merton's Masterplan for the Lake, December 2018

What one sees in the Final Masterplan Lake design, apart from the noticeably reduced surface area, is the smoothing out of the sinuous outline, the neutering of Brown's design, the blandness of the whole conception. From most of the Lake edge, one can see all of the Lake, the notion of the "never-ending view" is undermined, and the result, just an uninteresting body of water which would not look out of place in a modern and newly constructed pleasure park. Not to put too fine a point on it, the final removal of Capability Brown from Wimbledon Park.

We are potentially looking at the loss of a rare, unique and original piece of heritage landscape from a borough that has lost much of its heritage already. If desilting is to take place, cannot the Lake outline be preserved or even restored back to Brown's original design? After all, the information needed for such a restoration is already there.

By Tony Borkowski. Long time resident of Wimbledon Park

Burglary - Resi- dential	Suspect(s) has tried to force open door with unknown tool - no entry made	ASHEN GROVE	24/10/2019 10:55	24/10/2019 11:45
Burglary - Residential	unknown suspect breaking into venue and theft of property listed	ASHEN GROVE	09/10/2019 12:30	09/10/2019 13:20
Burglary - Resi- dential	Unknown suspects have forced entry into the property via rear window and conducted an untidy search.	HOME PARK ROAD	23/10/2019 18:45	23/10/2019 18:49
Criminal Dam- age To M/V	Unknown suspect has damaged the vehicle by leaving two long scratched along the passenger side	STROUD ROAD	02/10/2019 20:00	03/10/2019 07:05
Criminal Damage To M/V	Unknown suspect slashed victim vehicle tyres causing damage.	PLOUGH LANE	17/10/2019 06:45	17/10/2019 12:40
Criminal Dam- age To M/V	Unknown suspect threw unknown object at victims vehicle and smashed it	DURNSFORD ROAD	25/10/2019 18:00	25/10/2019 18:10
Other Theft	by unknown person/s stealing victim's purse by means not known	WEIR ROAD	20/10/2019 22:00	21/10/2019 04:00
Other Theft	Drive Out without making payment	PLOUGH LANE	17/10/2019 15:00	17/10/2019 15:00
Other Theft	Drive Out without making payment	PLOUGH LANE	18/10/2019 19:00	18/10/2019 19:05
Other Theft	Suspect filled tank and drove off without making payment	PLOUGH LANE	29/09/2019 19:25	
Other Theft	Suspect has filled with fuel and cans in the rear of vehicle. He has driven off making no attempt to pay	PLOUGH LANE	29/09/2019 19:26	
Other Theft	theft of wallet and contents	LEOPOLD ROAD	25/10/2019 03:00	25/10/2019 03:15
Other Theft Per- son	Allegation wallet taken from pocket on over ground train.	ARTHUR ROAD	14/10/2019 08:30	14/10/2019 09:00
Other Theft Per- son	Theft of card holder from unknown suspect	GAP ROAD/PLOUGH LANE	26/10/2019 02:40	26/10/2019 04:28
Theft From M/V	By informant reporting theft from motor vehicle	CROMWELL ROAD	23/10/2019 20:00	24/10/2019 08:00
Theft From M/V	By persons unknown taking rings from vehicle	KENILWORTH AVENUE	12/10/2019 23:30	13/10/2019 05:00

Theft From M/V	By suspect removing and the catalytic converter from victims vehicle and making off	ASHEN GROVE	30/09/2019 13:30	01/10/2019 13:30
Theft From M/V	Suspect unknown stealing number plates from vehicle	FARQUHAR ROAD	04/10/2019 19:30	07/10/2019 11:00
Theft From M/V	Front and rear number plates been removed and taken from victims vehicle by person(s) unknown	GORDONDALE ROAD	09/10/2019 18:00	10/10/2019 08:00
Theft From M/V	suspect unknown has stolen property from victim vehicle	KINGSLEY ROAD	02/10/2019 18:00	04/10/2019 12:00
Theft From M/V	Theft from motor vehicle	KENILWORTH AVENUE	17/10/2019 22:00	18/10/2019 05:30
Theft From M/V	theft from car	REVELSTOKE ROAD	19/10/2019 04:00	19/10/2019 05:00
Theft From M/V	Theff from motor vehicle	ARTHUR ROAD	24/10/2019 15:00	24/10/2019 17:00
Theft From M/V	theft from motor vehicle	CRESCENT GARDENS	07/10/2019 18:00	08/10/2019 07:55
Theft From M/V	Theff from vehicle whilst parked on road outside venue	DURNSFORD AVENUE	21/10/2019 18:30	22/10/2019 10:00
Theft From M/V	Two male suspects have stolen 19 wheel nuts, 2 locking wheel nuts, and 3 tyres still attached from the company - Vauxhall	PLOUGH LANE	21/10/2019 01:20	21/10/2019 01:50
Theft From M/V	Unknown suspect stole property from the victim's parked car.	REVELSTOKE ROAD	18/10/2019 12:00	19/10/2019 08:50
Theft From M/V	vehicle entered with no damage caused. Laptop stolen from the boot	WELLINGTON ROAD	11/10/2019 20:00	11/10/2019 23:00
Theft From M/V	Victims vehicle has been entered and items stolen.	HAVANA ROAD	14/10/2019 18:00	18/10/2019 13:00
Theft From M/V	Whilst left parked and unattended at the venue suspect(s) unknown have gained entry to the victims vehicle and stolen a bag containing six coats.	ASHEN GROVE	17/09/2019 00:01	17/09/2019 09:00
Theft/Taking of M/V	Theft of the victims motor vehicle, stolen by a suspect unknown.	KENILWORTH AVENUE	15/10/2019 18:30	16/10/2019 07:35
Theft/Taking of M/V	vehicle stolen from location by unknown suspect	COPPER MILL LANE	18/10/2019 01:00	19/10/2019 01:00
Theft/Taking of Pedal Cycles	By person(s) unknown having possibly caused cut damage to the 2 locks securing victims bike to the bike rack at venue did then unlawfully steal the bike and locks from venue	HAVANA ROAD	10/10/2019 07:36	10/10/2019 17:55

ZEBRA CROSSING!?

We have been petitioning Merton Council for over a year now to install a zebra crossing on Durnsford Road, outside Sainsbury's. If you use the island there to cross the road you will know how dangerous it can be, particularly when lorries are parked up making deliveries. You have to step out into the road to see if there is any oncoming traffic. And despite the introduction of 20mph limit on Durnsford Road, many drivers are still speeding along at 30mph or more.



In September, together with Councillor Ed Gretton, we met with Council officials responsible for highways. We outlined our reasons for the need for a zebra crossing. Their response was rather disappointing in that there had not been any accidents, footfall was low and other areas were in greater need of a zebra crossing. Also, parking spaces would have to be removed in order to allow for the zigzags.

However, at our meeting, the Council agreed to install a new buff coloured asphalt surface with anti-skid paint, between the island and the pavements, creating an illusion of a crossing. They have also agreed to put up new signs indicating that pedestrians may be crossing the road, stating the new 20mph speed limit and incorporating local school artwork. However, this will not be until the next budget round, so spring 2020 at the earliest!

This location is now top of our list for the next councillors' Speedwatch with local police!

Take care out there Pamela Healy



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Now you have time on your hands



Where can you go which is local to form friendships, have fun, learn new things or re-discover old things and get better at them? Well there is a self-managing organisation in the Borough with over 900 members which celebrates its 35th anniversary this year - Merton U3A or "University of the Third Age". U3As exist in many different countries and in 2016 they reached 1,000 U3As across the UK and this continues to grow.

If you're wondering what "third age" means - it is the time after you have finished working full-time or raising your family and have time to pursue your interests or just try something new. There is no minimum age as such but Merton's members' ages range from 50 to 100! It's all voluntary and run by local members.

Individual groups in a U3A generally have relatively small numbers (typically 6-15) who meet perhaps fortnightly. These groups have a collaborative approach and decide what they do, when and how. Think of the U3A as a 'university' of members who become friends and draw upon their knowledge and experience to share and learn from each other. Don't worry about the "university" label - there are no qualifications to pass – it is just for pleasure. Learning is its own reward. There is no distinction between learners and teachers – everyone can take a turn at being both if they wish.

Merton U3A offers 100 different friendly groups covering languages, photography, art appreciation, books, current affairs, history, law, bridge, Qi Gong, walking, painting and quilting to name but a few. Or you can start your own interest group with like-minded people. Magic Circle anyone? Groups meet in members' homes or sometimes in local community venues. There are also monthly talks, visits to places of interest, social events and get-togethers, study days, short courses, summer schools and research projects. A regular Newsletter and e-mail keeps members updated.

Membership is only £15 per year or £25 for couples. You can even go to a group for a "taster" session whilst you decide whether to join.

So if you want to stretch your mind, make new friends and enjoy life, then the U3A is for you. A warm welcome awaits you.

You can find more information at www.mertonu3a.org.uk where you will find application forms and a list of current groups, events, talks and visits.



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<u>Democracy and 5G</u> By Asif Naqvi (edited version)

Previously, I covered matters to do with health and 5G. With the elections coming up, I thought I'd write about democracy and 5G.

To recap, 5G or 5th Generation wireless network incorporates a basket of technologies 3G, 4G, 4G LTE and 5G. It's not to be confused with 5GHz radio frequency which is emitted from many WIFI routers in the home and work.

Like previous generations of wireless networks, 5G uses a range of frequencies. However, unlike them:

- It has the ability to be beam-forming, so rather than spread its signal in all
 directions it can focus its beam rather like a laser pointer in specific directions very rapidly (think autonomous cars). Also like a laser pointer the
 power of the beam is concentrated.
- It will require far more transmitters for 5G, so many in fact that they will be on our street lights every 3 to 5 houses apart. So there will be a big leap in the densification of man-made radio frequency radiation (RFR).
- It will enable the internet of things to produce AI-driven smart cities.

Our Local Democracy

With the advent of 5G, local authorities have less power to object to the way it is being deployed and they cannot refuse 5G infrastructure outright. This is because masts supporting 5G and its associated infrastructure falls into permitted development. The heights of masts allowed under permitted development has also increased, 75m in urban areas and 85m in the countryside.

Recently, there was a consultation across the UK by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government to ask whether the permitted development process for the deployment of 5G should be streamlined. The proposal is to do away with prior approval so that just a notification of it going ahead is required. The opportunity to make representations on permitted developments is already very restricted, but even this could disappear. With permitted development people can only object on the basis of visual impact. The impact on health is not considered.

A mast exists on the roof of a Wimbledon College building. Three Mobile wanted to give it 5G capability and make it much larger. Last month, local people succeeded in their objections to it but found the process they had to go through disturbing. Factors which contributed to this feeling were the lack of time to make their case, the limited number of people deemed to be affected and therefore consulted, and the development being described as "minor" when the scale of the increase on plans clearly showed otherwise. It was also found that developers can appeal a refusal to the National Planning Inspectorate, bypassing the Council, while objectors have no right of appeal if the Council approves a devel-



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opment. The experience led people to gain insight into the health implications of 5G and therefore the need to bring the National Planning Framework up to date so radiation concerns can be assessed and listened to by Councils according to the precautionary principle.

There has been a refusal of a mast development this month in the Hammersmith and Fulham area (W14). The mast was to be near a nursery school and homes, and this time not just visual impact but health was cited as a reason for refusal. The mast contravened ICNIRP health safety guidelines which is the basis for the government's regulation on radio frequency radiation (RFR). These guidelines, which date from 1996 are subject to a lot of criticism and are not considered stringent enough or even fit for purpose. According to the ICNIRP there is only sufficient evidence of harm from RFR when it causes thermal heating of the body. The UK uses the ICNIRP guidelines for its regulations which is why the allowable exposure in the UK is so high relative to other countries.

MP for Stroud, Dr David Drew, is aware of how the roll out of 5G is impacting local democracy: "The electronic communications code has granted virtually unlimited powers to companies to construct, maintain or develop the current infrastructure without any planning permission. It is all done under delegated responsibility, which means that the general public do not even know what is going on, because normally these things are not publicised. There is little recourse unless the public take court action to stop it, but the means of doing so are limited. Even a private landowner has little authority to stop it. The matter needs to be looked into and properly investigated." The same forcing through of 5G infra- structure is happening in North America as well.

Despite this, there are Councils who have made a stand. A moratorium on 5G based on the precautionary principle has been voted for in Totnes, Glastonbury, Frome, Kingsbridge and Shepton Mallet Councils, and there may be others. Unfortunately this has no basis in law and central government can ignore them. In fact they have "barrier-busting taskforces" for this purpose. Nevertheless, it makes a strong, principled statement, which is shared by others outside the UK, such as the Environment Minister Céline Fremault. Regarding a halted 5G trial in Brussels, she said "I cannot welcome such technology if the radiation standards, which must protect the citizen, are not respected, 5G or not... the people of Brussels are not guinea pigs whose health I can sell at a profit. We cannot leave anything to doubt."

Our National Democracy

The main focus, when it comes to health and environment, appears to be carbon reduction. The roll out of 5G is an element of the government's industrial strategy, so it is keen to roll it out. There is not a market for it, but it would like to create one by doing the R&D creating testbeds in universities and establishing the vision for its use.

"...the business case for the investment required for the deployment of 5G is not yet established.... the Government and wider public sector can therefore play a





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vital role in driving early demand as a major purchaser of 5G services as well as helping to address issues around public perception..." (DCMS Policy Paper, p8/9, Next Generation Mobile Technologies: A 5G Strategy for the UK, March 2017)

The vision for 5G is not really about faster downloads or more reactive game-play as it is widely thought. Mobile phones are also just a small part. As more and more objects become "smart" they are proposed to be served by 5G. Smart items such as fridges, meters, cars and even bins, which are being trialled in the UK, monitor their use and upload your interactions and link with other objects using 5G with them whilst incorporating Al to learn and become "smarter". Collectively they would form a smart city. This would mean a massive change for society, for quality of life, and a shift in perception of what it means to be a citizen or indeed governed. Yet the implications have not been discussed among the wider public. To my surprise, only Boris Johnson addressed the topic directly at the UN on 25th September 2019. He warned about the dangers Al and smart cities present to our liberty. The video can be found online, this is the transcript. Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon was part of the UN delegation present at the time. He was receptive to concerns about man-made EMR when he met with BEMRI.org when he was a local councillor.

It was odd to have heard the speech come from the PM because his administration in the form of the Department of Digital Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) is travelling in the opposite direction to his concerns.

Source: Next Generation Mobile Technologies: A 5G strategy for the UK- 8 March 2017- DCMS Policy paper

Without Information there is no Democracy

As discussed in the last article the government and our Councils rely on ICNIRP/WHO derived guidelines to ascertain safety. Our government uses the Health Protection Agency's document 'Health Effects from Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields' published in April 2012 when responding to public concerns. The latest study it cites is from 2011. However, much has been learnt since then. I will not go into its deficiencies in detail as I have touched on it previously. There has been an academic analysis of the document by Sarah J. Starkey, published on 16 October 2016. It can be found online entitled 'Inaccurate official assessment of radiofrequency safety by the Advisory Group on Non-ionising Radiation'.

Very little discussion has taken place about who owns the data fed back by the networks we use or how AI is being applied and what data it will utilise. Neither has there been much public debate, if any, about alternative technology to 5G such as wired networks and/or Li-Fi. Their long-term pros and cons are not widely discussed or even known about.

If you'd like to find out more, you can go to 5GinMerton.com, and in the resources section you can find the document 5G and the Precautionary Principle. It's quite easy to read and will hopefully answer many questions and prompt others.

(An unedited version of this article is available at www.wimbledonpark.com)

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10 Things to Know about Your Local Windmill



How old is it?

The Windmill on Wimbledon Common opened in 1817, making it 202 years old this year.

Why was it built?

The villagers of Wimbledon got fed up with travelling to the mills in Wandsworth and paying what seemed like high prices to get their grain ground there. Several of the mills were owned by popular local man John Watney, whose house – Rushmere – is still on Southside today. While a watermill is more efficient (as water runs more constantly and always in the same direction) than a windmill, that wasn't an option on the Common so a windmill was built for local use.

Who built it?

Charles March, a carpenter based in Roehampton.

What sort of mill is it?

Although smock or post mills are more common in the UK, Charles March built a "hollow-post" windmill, a type of mill more usual in Holland. However, he probably copied a hollow-post mill that stood near the site of the Globe Theatre in Southwark.

What was Earl Spencer's role?

In late 1864, the 5th Earl Spencer presented local residents with a plan to enclose Wimbledon Common so that he could build himself a new manor house there. The locals were soon up in arms and the ensuing six-year legal battle only ended when the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Act of 1871 handed the Commons to the local community, together with responsibility for its maintenance, an annuity to be paid to the Spencer family and a levy. (Read more about this here: https://www.wpcc.org.uk/information-on-governance/the-commons-levy)

What's there now?

When the mill stopped working in 1864, it was being operated by the Marsh family, who sold it but removed the stones and most of the machinery so that no one could run it in competition with their other mills in Kingston. The empty mill was

converted into living accommodation for six families, with the wooden walls on the first floor being rebuilt in brick and the addition of fireplaces and chimneys. This is how the mill appears today. Surprisingly, the mill was still in use as accommodation for the Wimbledon Common Rangers until 1976, when the first floor was converted into a museum. A Heritage Lottery Grant enabled the museum to be extended to the ground floor in 1999.

The museum's exhibits show how the harnessing of wind power developed, from early Middle Eastern windmills to the present day, as well as how grain was milled to produce flour in the Wimbledon Windmill. There is also an exhibit about the Scouting movement as Baden-Powell wrote Scouting for Boys (published in 1908) in the Mill House next door, which is now privately owned. There are also opportunities, which children love, to try your hand at milling flour using the labour-intensive methods of the past: a saddle stone, a mortar and a hand quern.

Who created the Museum?

The Windmill was saved from decay and ruin by local architect and conservationist Norman Plastow, who conceived the idea for the Museum and made most of the models inside. Norman, now a sprightly 90-year-old, still calls in at the Museum most weekends and enjoys showing visitors round. If you spot him, ask to see his set of miniature tools!

Does the windmill work?

The windmill stopped working when the original machinery was removed in 1864. In any case, with animals no longer grazing there and eating tasty young trees, the Common is now more wooded, reducing the amount of wind to which the mill is exposed.

Who owns it?

The Windmill is owned (and leased to the Museum) by the Wimbledon & Putney Commons Conservators (https://www.wpcc.org.uk) a charity whose trustees are responsible for looking after the Commons and preserving them for future generations, as laid out in the original Act of 1871.

10) Can you get involved?

If you haven't yet visited the Wimbledon Windmill Museum, please do: we are normally open during British Summer Time (Saturday afternoons from 2.00 to 5.00 and on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays from 11.00 to 5.00) but please join us for our Carol Concert on Saturday 14th December 2019 at 3pm, when there will be carols, mince pies and hot drinks.

And, as we are entirely run by volunteers, we always enthusiastically welcome anyone who can spare an occasional three hours to keep this wonderful local asset open and available to all. To learn more, please contact us at info@wimbledonwindmill.org.uk. We would love to hear from you.

The Wimbledon Park Community Trust

The Trust is pleased to invite applications for grants. Applications can be made at any time by individuals, groups, established organisations or existing charities.

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.

General Guidelines:

- 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 can be made at any time.

Please send them in writing to:

Wimbledon Park Community Trust,

56 Home Park Road, SW19 7HN.

All applications will be acknowledged.

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

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Friends of Wimbledon Park (FOWP)

So, the summer has whizzed past - yet again! The summer months proved busy with a series of activities and events planned in conjunction with our sister group – The Capability Brown Society (TCBS). These included a well-attended and popular bat walk on 21st September, led by Alison Fure of the London Bat Group, which provided the walkers with the opportunity of seeing most of the seven species of bats found in the park – a wonderful evening.

And the winners are - tennis and classic cars!

Early September (8th) brought a couple of new ventures and tennis and classic car enthusiasts were out in force. Free tennis coaching sessions were provided for children in the morning. This was followed by a new adult tennis tournament which proved to be very popular with lots of participants and their supporters. Many players came from further afield than Wimbledon, so news of the tournament was widespread. We are hoping that this will become a park fixture for years to come.

Meanwhile, elsewhere in the park, members of Club 96 International had brought along their classic and cherished cars for all to see and admire. There were approximately 120 cars on display which generated much appreciation and delight.



Our thanks are extended to the tennis organiser, Paul Barton, and to Club 96 International car owners for giving us such an enjoyable day.

A marvellous afternoon of music and dance

We had a truly musical afternoon on 14th September when we were wowed and delighted by students singing, dancing and playing music from Ricards Lodge, St. Cecilia's and Southfields Academy. St. Cecilia's dynamic concert band played their catchy tunes ranging from film classics, classical repertoire and Broadway

medleys with both gusto and sensitivity. Southfields Academy students projected their amazing voices in their own unique way during their performances accompanied only by an acoustic guitar. And the Ricards Lodge dancers thrilled us, yet again, with their varied dance interpretations demonstrating their agility and creativity. Well done to all the wonderful students who performed for us. Such talented, committed and respectful students - a credit to themselves, their schools and their families. A big thank you to The Wimbledon Club for hosting this event.



A tour of the Heritage Park

The walk around the Heritage Park (22nd September) was most enjoyable and it did not rain! We were few in numbers (possibly due to the cold weather?) and there was much discussion about the historical landscape and the current issues facing the Heritage Park, not just the public park. It was also exciting to get onto the golf course which has beautiful grounds and trees and to take photos from a different viewpoint. It would be great to be able to walk around the whole lake in, hopefully, the near future!

Tree work in the public park

You may have noticed some park trees have been cut down recently and some comments were put on our Facebook page about this. Merton's Arboricultural Team have been doing some routine tree maintenance work in the park as well as some tree felling, as evidenced in the photos below. The correspondence we received read 'Wimbledon Park - works across whole site following full site survey. Predominantly various pruning works but also including several fells (these all double checked as necessary).'



Revelstoke Road entrance

We are looking at ways of improving the Revelstoke Road entrance to the park including the railway bridge. This would need to be done in conjunction with Merton and Wandsworth Councils and TfL. The Merton Masterplan compiled by the independent consultants hired by Merton put forward some proposals for this which were published on Merton's website in December 2018. The FOWP have drawn up plans for the entrance and this will form part of a public consultation early on in 2020.

Poplars don't give up easily!

The way that the stumps of the felled poplars in the park are sprouting new branches is a marvellous example of how coppicing, an ancient method of forest management, works. (This may not be Merton Council's intention of course!) In coppicing, a tree is cut down close to the ground and new branches sprout from the stump. These are left for between two to seven years (depending on the thickness required) and then harvested; the branches are cut down to ground level again, they grow again, and so the cycle continues.



On the face of it, you'd think this wouldn't do the tree much good. But, on the contrary, it can extend the tree's life for hundreds of years. The procedure keeps the tree in a permanently juvenile state – it never grows old.

Find out more about coppicing at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coppicing

Reception in the Mayor's Parlour

The Executive Committee of the FOWP recently enjoyed a lovely evening with the Mayor of Merton, Councillor Janice Howard, her Consort, Councillor Andrew Howard and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Edward Foley. We had the opportunity to talk about park related matters including the Paddling Pool and the toilets as well as the future of the lake and also the Mayor's chosen charities (Merton Faith in Action and Macmillan Cancer Support) in a most convivial setting. A big thank you to the Mayor of Merton for her kind invitation, her hospitality and continued support.

Do follow us on our Facebook page – Friends of Wimbledon Park or Twitter FriendsoWP

That's all for 2019! Season's greetings and see you again in 2020.

Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty

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Creative Workshops	Workshop 305	23
Decorators	Rob West Decorators	33
Electrician	Eddie Driscoll	21
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	Little Learners	43
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