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Easter edition 2019

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

Chairman's Report

Council consultation on revision of Parking charges

As we go to press, the Council have announced a consultation on their proposal to increase parking charges in the borough. The official document is headed as follows:

PROPOSED CHANGES TO ON-STREET PARKING PLACES PAY AND DISPLAY CHARGES

PROPOSED CHANGES TO RESIDENTS' PERMITS, ANNUAL VISITOR PERMITS AND TEMPORARY VISITOR PERMITS CHARGES

Details of the consultation can be found on the Council website at this address:

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/parkingconsultation2019>

The increases proposed are substantial. We urge all residents to look at the detailed proposals and decide whether they consider both the justification and the amounts of these increases are reasonable and respond to the consultation.

The consultation will finish on the 5th May.

Some good news!

Also as we go to press we have heard that, due to some quick thinking on the part of Haydons North Community Group and Cllr. Ed Gretton, we have been successful in obtaining Government funding for some badly needed improvements to the small park at the junction of Plough Lane and Gap Road. See pg 24.

Wimbledon Park Golf Club

Since our last newsletter was distributed, the remaining lease of the Wimbledon Park Golf Club was acquired by the AELTC for a reported figure of £65 million.

Following the acquisition, the AELTC published a newsletter which contained the following statement:

“In welcoming the decision of the members of Wimbledon Park Golf Club to vote in favour of our offer to acquire the Club, we recognise equally that there is some concern as to what we might do with the land. Pending court approval of the acquisition, the ownership of Wimbledon Park Golf Club will transfer into the AELTC group effective 21 December 2018.

“As per the terms of the acquisition, WPGC will continue to operate as an 18-hole golf course until 31 December 2021, with at least one further year as a 9- or 10-hole golf course on a rolling basis subject to a 12-month notice period. In the meantime, as we begin to consider our wider plans for the land as part of a broader new Championships Master Plan and home to a world class Qualifying Competition, we fully intend to work with the local authorities and the local community to assist in the beneficial management of the parkland.

“As we have stressed throughout this process, any future proposals will celebrate the heritage of the parkland and be guided by our landscape advisers

who have closely studied the significance and history of the land. We are confident we can work with all relevant stakeholders to help conserve and enhance the land and the potential service it could offer the local area. Most importantly, it would be delivered in partnership with the local community.

“For the avoidance of doubt, there never has been and never will be any plans to build multi-storey car parks and shopping villages or any other structures that would be completely out of character for the parkland, the local area, the AELTC and The Championships.”

Concrete Batching Plant

No further news on the planning situation with the concrete batching plant in Waterside Way. The applicant Express Concrete (a subsidiary of Cappagh) has appealed against the refusal of planning permission for this scheme alongside the tranquil Wandle Trail, and we await details of how and when the appeal will be dealt with.

You may recall that Merton Council refused the plans on the grounds of visual impact, yet stated no objections on the grounds of noise, pollution, air quality or highways impact from the scheme, which will generate around 100 extra HGVs per day on our road network. Residents will be putting together a strong case for continued refusal of this application.

The Stadium Section 73 application

This application was heard at the March Planning Applications Committee and passed despite our strong objections. As we indicated in our last report, we retained a lawyer to reinforce our objection to the submission of the application under a Section 73 amendment. This was ultimately unsuccessful due to recent decisions in the law courts which appear to directly contradict the government’s published planning policy on the matter.

National planning guidelines require that Merton must refuse any application that increases air pollution in areas which already exceed EU limits. The environmental report submitted by applicants was substantially at variance with the pollution results published by Merton Council. As a result applicants submitted a further report to try and explain the difference.

Our lawyer’s letter to Merton requested the discrepancies be explained by the Council. The response from the Council assured our lawyer that this matter would be properly addressed in the Officers’ report to the Planning Committee. However this did not happen.

Heathrow Consultation

This important matter is discussed in Stephen Hammond’s update, pages 6 and 7.

The rebirth of the Woodman pub

For many residents the emergence of a modernised and ‘different’ Woodman is a very welcome and long hoped for event. See page 33.

Update from Stephen Hammond MP

I am once again grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the Wimbledon Park Residents' Association newsletter.

Brexit continues to dominate national politics, and I am continuing to fulfil my promise at the last election to oppose a 'Hard Brexit'. Events are moving incredibly quickly and if I were to write about Brexit here it would no doubt be out of date by the time this goes to print, so you can find my regular Brexit updates on my website here: www.stephenhammond.net/Brexit



Heathrow Airport Expansion

Heathrow Airport held a consultation on proposed flight paths. Many residents have been writing to me to express their concerns over how proposed flight paths would impact Wimbledon.

Let me say from the outset, that if the flight expansion means more low flying, noisy flights over Wimbledon, Raynes Park, Morden and Motspur Park I cannot support the plans. Moreover, I am not convinced that expanding the flight pattern over a wider area is the right approach. I believe Heathrow should consult on a more concentrated approach with more flights in a smaller envelope.

Wimbledon is an important conservation area, with Wimbledon Village and six further conservation areas affected by the new flight envelopes. Wimbledon Town Centre is a vibrant London suburban centre with a major secondary transport hub largely unaffected by Heathrow Airport.

Wimbledon Village is a quiet, unique, suburban village with the internationally renowned All England Lawn Tennis Club. The proposals would see 47 flights per hour and 17 hours of operation on days when flights are using this pattern. The air corridors stated that Wimbledon Village would receive 16,607 flights per year at 2,000 feet or less with increasing power settings for descent.

This is over an area that has not experienced this level of aircraft movement previously. This is unacceptable to our local community. Merton as a whole also has 77 schools, 2 large outpatient facilities and numerous GP practices plus a large number of residential care homes.

I would like to thank everybody who took part in the consultation and came along to my public meeting with representatives from Heathrow Airport.

It is important to note that this consultation is about the flight envelopes and there will be further consultations on the more specific flight paths. Firstly, there will be a consultation in June on what an expanded Heathrow will look like, a surface access strategy, and the impact on the environment. Secondly, there will be a consultation on 'airspace modernisation' and specific flight paths in 2022. I will publicise these consultations when more details become available.

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Wimbledon Park Ward Crime Statistics

Jan 2019	2018												2019		12 Month Total	Ave per Month	% of Total
	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan					
	Violence and Sexual Offences	6	16	10	14	15	15	12	10	11	8	9	6	132			
Other Theft	9	12	4	14	22	7	13	2	12	16	10	9	130	11	15		
Burglary	13	8	6	12	18	17	5	7	12	14	5	10	127	11	15		
Vehicle Crime	14	8	15	10	13	5	10	14	10	9	7	9	124	10	15		
Anti-Social Behaviour	2	10	6	4	6	9	17	5	14	5	10	17	105	9	12		
Criminal Damage and Arson	8	2	5	8	8	6	5	5	6	1	3	5	62	5	7		
Public Order	1	10	6	5	3	4	2	6	5	4	4	0	50	4	6		
Shoplifting	6	3	7	3	0	2	2	3	4	5	2	0	37	3	4		
Bicycle Theft	5	3	1	2	6	5	3	1	3	5	1	0	35	3	4		
Drugs	0	1	1	2	2	2	0	1	0	2	0	2	13	1	2		
Robbery	1	4	2	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	1	13	1	2		
Theft from the Person	1	1	0	4	1	2	0	1	1	0	1	0	12	1	1		
Other Crime	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	5	0	1		
Possession of Weapons	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		
Total	66	79	64	79	95	76	69	56	78	70	54	60	846	71	100		



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Wimbledon Park Lake Watch – Spring 2019

It was not too long ago when the Lake was filled with swans, apparently young males, that were attracted by the large quantities of the water-plant, hornwort, present in the water. According to the RSPB swans eat aquatic vegetation, which their long necks equip them to take from the lakebed. They take the molluscs which cling to the vegetation and also eat small fish, frogs and worms.



Young swans on the Lake in November 2015

But the sharp-eyed amongst you may have noticed a very steep decline in their numbers, there now being only two pairs of swans currently resident on the Lake. What has happened?

It seems that a particularly large and aggressive male swan, a long time resident on the Lake, and known to fishing club members as “Damien”, may have taken to driving most of the young swans off the water. Additionally, in an example of “nature red in tooth and claw”, he then started to drown two sets of cygnets by holding their heads under water. Five larger cygnets were apparently drowned during November and he then started to drown some smaller cygnets before bailiffs from the fishing club noticed what was happening and called in the Swan Sanctuary (24 hour hotline on 01932 240790). Four out of the five smaller cygnets were rescued and taken to the Swan Sanctuary’s shelter in Shepperton. (Note that the Swan Sanctuary will not come out for other birds in distress.)

Continued on Page 12

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Probably “Damien” who seemed none too pleased to have his picture taken

As mentioned earlier, there are now only two pairs of swans left on the Lake, Damien and his partner, and a descendant of Damien and his/her partner. When asked if Damien ought to be removed from the Lake the Swan Sanctuary said that he would likely be too dangerous to be left on another water, so we have him for company for the next few years unless he decides to move on himself.

Tony Borkowski,
Chairman of the Wimbledon Park Angling Club

+++++

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Why De-Silt Wimbledon Park Lake?

When was the need for de-silting first established?

A Technical Steering Group (TSG) for Wimbledon Park Lake, under London Borough of Merton, was established in October 2017. Its objective was: “..... to undertake the required remedial works to the Lake to meet the statutory obligations and duties of the Council in the interest of reservoir safety, flood risk, amenity, heritage and biodiversity.”

While the need for “reservoir safety” follows on from a direct instruction of the Environment Agency (June 2016), the requirement for “de-silting” is primarily for the benefit of the sailing club. “Desilting of the Lake has minimal benefits in terms of meeting the required reservoir safety standards.” (September 2018 TSG minutes). Given there are at least 6 sailing clubs within a 10 mile radius of Wimbledon Park, there is not likely to be a significant increase in usage for sailing at WP. The benefits for biodiversity have not been spelt out and are questionable at least. Disturbing the environment of eels, a critically endangered and European protected species, would require a mitigation licence from Natural England, not likely to be given just for improving sailing.

What are the likely costs of de-silting?

If all the 72,000 cubic metres of silt were to be removed, this would come in at a cost of at least £7.2 million, assuming £100 per cubic metre. This does not include additional environment costs of the 5143 lorries needed to remove the silt off site. (Source TSG website)

An alternative is to pump out the silt, store and dry it out in bags and then use these bags as revetments on top of which could be planted reed beds or other natural habitats. For all 72,000 cubic metres of silt this would come in at a cost of £2.1 million, assuming £30 per cubic metre. In addition, hundreds of square metres of the park would need to be used to contain this drying silt. Sailing club activity, and the revenue derived from it, would almost certainly be suspended during such operations. This option may itself be limited if the silt used is contaminated with heavy metals. (Source TSG website)

What are the likely impacts on the surface area of the Lake? All the options involving the re-distribution rather than outright removal of silt will reduce the surface area of the Lake by between 11% and 41%. In all cases the



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original historic Capability Brown-designed perimeter will be altered, in some cases quite drastically. Historic England is likely to object to any such significant changes to the Lake outline. (Source TSG website)

What other impacts are likely?

Any new silt bag banking established as a replacement or addition to the existing dam are likely to have consequences for the Reservoir Safety work already required by the Environment Agency. New water control and overflow structures will have to be created and the existing overflow stream in the Park may have to be altered at additional cost.

What additional permissions need to be obtained?

Any movement of silt and its potential impact on local hydrology (for example, local water table) will have to be approved by the Environment Agency, and they are unlikely to provide the necessary licence unless the proposed solution meets their standards. Water levels have risen over the past 20 years and have led to drainage issues for parts of the golf course.

What safety issues might be raised?

An analysis of the silt in the Lake reveals that it contains elevated levels of lead and zinc. Undue disturbance of silt may well create elevated levels of lead and zinc in the water itself, posing a threat to Lake users such as the sailing club. Disturbed silt could also flow into the Wandle undermining restoration work being undertaken there. The Environment Agency would assess this risk as part of any application for de-silting. (Source TSG website).

It has also been established, through Freedom of Information requests, that L. B. of Merton makes no regular sampling of the Lake water at all. Therefore there is no baseline against which the results of any de-silting could be monitored. Other sources (WPAC) reveal elevated levels of bacteria in the water (E. Coli and coli-forms) almost certainly caused by the large number of birds on the Lake. It is not clear if current users are suffering breaches of safety.

Tony Borkowski
Chairman, Wimbledon Park Angling Club

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DURNSFORD RECREATION GROUND

In December along with other volunteers – Ivan Scott, Mamoona Jahangir and Jill Farmer - we planted 250 spring bulbs in one of the beds in the Rec. The bulbs were donated by Taylors Bulbs of Spalding to the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association, who invited applications for the bulbs and we were lucky enough to have our application accepted.



The bulbs include 3 varieties of Tulip, 2 varieties of Hyacinth, as well as Allium, Camassia and Ipheion. We chose to block plant the bulbs and hope for a wonderful show of colour in late spring.



Pamela Healy

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YOUR LOCAL

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AIR POLLUTION

We continue to monitor the levels of nitrogen dioxide in the Ward; the latest results in the table below were recorded during December 2018.

The results from the diffusion tubes require calibration and adjusting alongside government figures. This is called a bias adjustment. Using a bias correction factor for the type of diffusion tube we used involves multiplying the results by 0.89.

Adjusted results, in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (micrograms per cubic metre):

Location	Results	Adjusted results
Ravensbury Terrace	14.52	12.92
Kohat Rd	25.63	22.81
Wellington Rd – outside the primary school	28.60	25.45
Cromwell Road/Haydons Road	41.89	37.28
Durnsford Rd/Havana Rd by pelican crossing	42.60	37.91
Plough Lane Junction	46.50	41.38

The European Union have set a legal mean annual limit for nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) at $40\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

As you can see, our results, apart from the Plough Lane junction, are under the level at which the mean annual limit is set. This does not automatically mean that the air in our area is clean to breathe.

The results only show a snapshot of the air pollution for the place and time we were monitoring – and are not directly comparable to annual data. Over a year the weather varies considerably, and levels of air 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.

You may recall the monitoring we did in May/June last year showed very high readings for Plough Lane - 59.73 and Durnsford Road - 56.84, and it is disturbing to see that the only area where the results have increased this time is Wellington Road outside the primary school going up from 15.84 in September 2017 to 18.99 in May/June 2018 to 25.45 in December 2018. This could be caused by the high levels of pollution on Durnsford Road drifting down towards the school or an increase in lorries using the Wellington Works.

Friends of the Earth are no longer supplying diffusion tubes. However, Merton Council have agreed to supply them to us and we will now carry out monitoring in January, April, July and October in line with DEFRA's Diffusion Tube Calendar. The Council's Air Quality Team will now see our results directly and feed them into their results for the whole of the borough. **Pam Healy**

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Front Garden Awards 2019



If your garden is usually past its best by the end of June, you may be pleased to know that judging for our annual Awards will take place during May this year. We will be on the lookout for attractive gardens, so do please consider how your front garden can help to enhance our neighbourhood.

The imposition of wheelie bins this year has proved a challenge to many of us, but if you don't have room for a garden, then just keeping the front space tidy can make a big difference to the overall appearance of the street.

All gardens visible from the street are eligible for an Award in one of the following four categories:

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

Judging will take place on the following dates:

Preliminary selections: 19 - 26 May

Final round: Sunday 2 June

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

Presentation of the awards, including the John Uden Trophy for the overall Winner, will take place at the WPRAGM in the Autumn.

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

Contact Jill Farmer

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



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As we go to press, some great news:

Our Residents' Association and ward Councillors, along with the Haydons Road North community website, have secured a £25,000 grant from Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government. This is to fund the improvement of the rather forlorn and run down pocket park on Gap Road at the Plough Lane / Durnsford Road crossroads.



Cllr Ed Gretton reports:

"Ward Councillors are extremely grateful for the support of the Wimbledon Park Residents' Association in getting the grant application submitted, and for the publicity and support generated by the Haydons Road North community website. This is really exciting - the project starts now to complete the final design and bring a new and very much improved open green space into the area of our ward that is most in need. It will be great for air quality, and we are

currently looking at a design based on South Park Gardens. We'd like to see a restoration of fabulous blossom trees, lawns and bedding at this very urban crossroads."

Ward Councillors will be working with the Residents' Association and the Council's Future Merton team to seek input from local residents and additional funding from local businesses, to deliver the project and ensure we end up with a calming and pleasant green space at this busy crossroads.

Any residents interested in supporting the project as it develops or putting forward design ideas should contact the ward Councillors (details below) or watch out for updates through the year on the Haydons Road North Community Site webpage (easily found on Google, at HaydonsRoadNorthCommunity.wordpress.com).

edward.gretton@merton.gov.uk

oonagh.moulton@merton.gov.uk

janice.howard@merton.gov.uk



The Players' Theatre Club Traditional Music Hall



Originally formed in 1927, it staged its first Victorian Music Hall show on December 6th 1937. By a happy coincidence the club performed in the same room, at 43 King Street, as its direct predecessors Mr Joy, and his successor Mr Evans, who called his events “Evans’s, Late Joy’s”.

By staging their own “Late Joys”, Peter Ridgeway and his colleague Leonard Sachs launched the Players’ Theatre Club which quickly became one of the best-known music halls in the world, with a membership of thousands and attracting artistes of the calibre of Peter Ustinov, Hattie Jacques, Clive Dunn and many, many more.

The Players' continued putting on shows in its own premises for several decades, until eventually, in 2002, it finally closed its doors and reinvented itself as a new club, putting on occasional shows and working to preserve the wonderful traditions of Victorian music hall.

Although it no longer has its own theatre, it continues to put on public music hall shows throughout the year at the Museum of Comedy, in the Crypt of St.George’s Bloomsbury.

The next shows are all at 3.30pm on Sundays May 19th, Sept 22nd and Dec 1st.

There are also members-only evenings at the Roebuck pub in Great Dover Street, Southwark.

In addition, there are biennial parties at the Royal Air Force Club in Piccadilly, where the traditional “Interval for refreshments” is extended somewhat to enable our guests to enjoy a two-course supper, before settling down to the second half of a full-scale music hall entertainment.

We are always ready to accept invitations to provide bespoke music hall events for any organisation or individual who can provide the venue and audience while we (for a modest fee) provide the artist.

For further details, and bookings, go to the website: www.playerstheatre.co.uk
Nigel Israel FSA

Friends of Wimbledon Park Report - Spring 2019

By Amelia Obertelli - Moriarty

The plaque is back!

A commemorative plaque celebrating the tercentenary anniversary of the birth of Capability Brown (1716–2016) and on display at the Revelstoke Road entrance to Wimbledon Park met with some misfortune late in 2018. However, all is now well as it has been beautifully restored by Nick, a local resident. A big thank-you to him for giving his own time and using his expertise to mend the shattered plaque. It is now back in situ at the Revelstoke Road entrance. See below photos of the amazing transformation - before and after. Fingers crossed that it does not get damaged again!



Some sadness but good news too!

You may have already seen that the Poplar trees have started to be cut down on the railway side (there was an article about this topic in the December newsletter.). Admittedly, it is always sad to see trees being felled and it is a pity for the wildlife such as hole-nesting birds, the Poplar Hawk Moth and, possibly, bats. BUT there is also some good news as FOWP, in conjunction with the Tree Warden Group Merton, planted fourteen stand-alone replacement trees (Hornbeams) in February. A new copse comprising Red Oak, three Silver Birches and distinctive Red Barked Dogwood was also created on the railway side of the southern part of the park near Wimbledon Park Brook. Trees must be planted before the end of February, so we just about managed it! All we now need to do is to make sure they are watered - particularly during any dry spells. The soil was rather dry when digging the holes so, if you have some water when walking through the park, do please spare some for the new trees. A very big thank-you to everyone who




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helped us with the tree planting (we had some very keen and hardworking children join us on several occasions which was special). Our thanks go to The Wimbledon Park Community Trust for generously sponsoring the replacement trees. All we now need is for all park visitors to help care for these young trees so they can grow strong and upright and bring joy to future generations.



Meeting with All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC)

FOWP members met up with key people from AELTC - Sally Bolton (Strategic Planning and Operations Director), Justin Smith (Head of Estate Development) and Johnny Perkins (Corporate Communications) in mid-January. The meeting was to discuss not only AELTC's plans now that they had taken full ownership of the Wimbledon Park Golf Club, but also, to discuss the FOWP's plans for the heritage park encompassing heritage, Wimbledon Lake, bio-diversity, conservation, protection of habitats, e.g. bats, and historic landscapes. The matters were discussed openly and there was much agreement. Golf will cease to be played by 2022 and the AELTC team are keen to work with the other owners of the heritage park i.e. Merton Council and The Wimbledon Club, plus key groups and residents to create a Masterplan. We understand that the Masterplan is still in its embryonic stages. The land nearest to the AELTC buildings will, most probably, be used for

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tennis courts and there is a possibility that a lakeside walk, which will be open to the public, will be created. The AELTC team are very aware that the Masterplan needs careful consideration unifying both the historical and natural elements of a Capability Brown landscape and the needs of an international, prestigious and ever-growing sporting organisation. There may be some hiccups along the way but we are off to a positive start.

Loving the veteran English Oak

In the last newsletter I stated that the English Oak tree (*Querus robur*) which stands at the park junction east of the Bowling Green was 215 years old. I was wrong! It is in fact approx. 240 years old! Just think- this veteran tree began life around 1780 when the land still belonged to Earl Spencer's Wimbledon Park! It is in its prime and could reach a ripe old age of 1,000 years old. In a bid to help it extend its longevity and to keep it healthy and upright a fence now surrounds it. This is to protect the tree and its roots. The enclosed area will be covered in bark with some greenery also being planted e.g. Butcher's Broom and Pendulous Sedge are being considered. According to the Woodland Trust, these oak trees 'support more life forms than any other native trees. They host hundreds of species of insect, supplying many British birds with an important food source' as well as providing shelter for the park's bat population (seven species seen in the bat survey of Summer 2017). Long may the tree prosper!

PS I am reliably informed that the felled logs, which provide much enjoyment for many children, will be moved at some point and placed elsewhere.



Continued on Page 32

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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The Capability Brown Society Art Competition and Exhibition 1 & 2 December 2018

What a wonderful weekend we had! The Wimbledon Park Bowling Pavilion space was filled with colourful and imaginative art work created by young students aged 7-18, proudly displayed and much admired by visitors, making it both an enchanting and enjoyable weekend. Eight schools, from both Wandsworth and Merton participated, plus some non-school based students. The themes related to landscapes and movement in the park. Thank-you to all our delightful and very talented young artists and all our visitors (we had over 275 visitors!). A big thank-you is also extended to everyone who helped make the exhibition both possible and successful. We had a wonderful time and we are already thinking of doing another exhibition later this year. Here are the winners of the three age categories 7-10, 11-13 and 14-18.



The Woodman comes back to life



A modernised and very appealing Woodman will open in April under brand new management. The official opening is scheduled for the 27th April but there will be a soft opening before that date. The old extension has been removed because of the house building that has now started on the old car park. However there will be a good size garden and barbeque area. Various draft beers will be on offer together with a variety of tasty dishes available from the brand new kitchen. Just what is needed!



SEARCHING FOR OUR LOCAL ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

Architecture is a word mostly associated with the built environment and more often than not we use it in conjunction with other concepts in order to help us understand which aspect, characterisation or even era we are attempting to bring into the discussion when we mention the word.

If we say, for example, Norman, Georgian, Victorian or Edwardian architecture most of us will immediately frame in our minds some kind of specific buildings or constructions. If we say Classic, Gothic or Baroque architecture more or less the same happens. When we refer to Modern, International, High Tech, Post Modern, Minimalist architecture, etc., then it is not clear that we all form the same picture of exactly what we are trying to bring into the debate.

In the past, for classification purposes, it was easier to associate architectural movements from an historical perspective in the UK in particular to the reign of some line of monarchy; the slower pace of change, the evident patronage and the peak of the British Empire during Victorian times led, for example, to an established worldwide understanding of Victorian architecture.



Early Jacobean architectural reference

The same cannot be said about an architectural style that would easily characterise the development of the built environment during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II from 1953 to present days. If we attempt to summarise a thread with a common subject guiding the development of architecture during almost 8 decades, we would find it very difficult indeed.

1950s architecture in the UK was still primarily focused on a rebuilding programme after the Second World War, aimed at resolving urban social problems with, amongst other wonderful ideas, the advent of new garden cities.

The 1960s brought about, in the form of a more international influence, the aesthetics of the simple use of formless materials, such as exposed concrete in the development of what was described as brutalism in architecture with some world

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renown examples near us, such as Roehampton, still with the idea of resolving the residential accommodation crisis that persists even to this day.

The 1970s and 1980s saw a reaction led by outstanding designers in this country in the form of High Tech construction involving the re-development of large areas of deprived cities, east London in particular, new offices, hospitals, schools, industrial parks, retail parks. In parallel there was a reaction principally in the residential sector where a vernacular revival was developed mainly in the smaller towns where traditional forms and local materials became fashionable again principally in development promoted by the private sector.

Then we saw a reaction in the form of post-modernism to reintroduce a level of external ornamentation that in the new century was followed by a variety of partly international - partly British generated new influences such as deconstruction, minimalism, maximalism, all combined in an explosion of uncontrolled creativity that has in the first two decades of this century drastically changed the skyline of our cities - London and the River Thames frontage are a prime example of these dramatically altered skylines.

So we go back to our Merton and Wimbledon areas and wonder how they have changed in the period in question. Has there been any change in the built environment that we can identify as a clear progress towards a more sustainable future for its inhabitants?



Contemporary architecture in context

What seems to be a clear conclusion is that, not through the fault of anyone in our current society, there appears to be no single set of ideas leading architecture to improve our future other than the common effort to make our developments more sustainable.

Perhaps our readers would be encouraged to identify within our recently built local developments, those buildings that for their quality will become the iconic examples of the architecture of our time.

Mario L Avendano, RIBA

Galerie Prints



Vogue, Culture Whisper, Fox News in the US and The Evening Standard have all been talking about rare, candid photographs of Marilyn Monroe went on display at GALERIE PRINTS Gallery –

Credit: Ed Feingersh/Getty images Archive

in London's Wimbledon Park area, as a new exhibition, titled *A Week With Marilyn* - reminiscent in name of the 2011 film in which Michelle Williams played Monroe - opened last month.

The black-and-white pictures, some of which have almost certainly never been printed nor exhibited before, were taken by Ed Feingersh, who spent a week photographing the iconic 20th century figure in March 1955 as she went about her daily life.

The Brooklyn-born photographer, whose Monroe works are his best known, was on an assignment for *Red Book* magazine - having been recommended for the job by Monroe herself. She was preparing for two public appearances in the week of 24 to 30 March: the opening night of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* at the Morosco Theatre and a charity event that she was part of in Madison Square Gardens, at which she appeared on a pink elephant.

Feingersh's photos of Monroe in Grand Central Station, with passengers passing by without noticing, are particularly famous monochromatic images captured of the

icon. The negatives were found in a warehouse several decades after the photographer died in 1961. In another of the pictures in the series, Feingersh captured Marilyn chatting and laughing in the back of a New York taxicab.

There are also exquisite shots of her dining in a New York restaurant and of her getting ready in her room at the Ambassador Hotel to go to the theatre to see the Tennessee Williams play.

A Week With Marilyn is at Wimbledon Park's [Galerie Prints](http://www.GALERIEPRINTS.com)

and because of its extraordinary popularity (the show has drawn people in from all over London as well as the rest of the country – as well as from far away as Hollywood in LA!!) has now been extended until April 20, 2019.

This is a FREE exhibition and the gallery is situated at 152 Arthur Rd, Wimbledon Park, London SW19 8AQ.

Wheelchair access, child friendly and well behaved dogs (and other pets) allowed

For more information please visit:

www.GALERIEPRINTS.com



Credit: Ed Feingersh/Getty Images Archive

Lady Wimbledon with Marilyn Monroe tribute artist, Suzie Kennedy at A Week With Marilyn exhibition, Galerie Prints Wimbledon | Image credit: White Tail Pictures



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