Newsletter
Autumn 2021



West Wickham
Residents' Association

www.westwickhamresidents.com

Facebook: @westwickhamRA

Hon. Chairman:	info@westwickhamresidents.com		
Hon. Secretary:	Mrs Katrina Iddon	katrina_iddon@hotmail.com 8, The Grove, BR4 9JS	020 8776 1252
Hon. Treasurer:	Mr Richard Douglas	richard.douglas@colliers.com	
Editor:	Mr Christopher Barnes	wwra.editor@gmail.com	07801 443645

West Wickham Ward Councillors

Nicholas Bennett J.P.	nicholas@nicholasbennett.org.uk
Mark Brock	mark.brock@bromley.gov.uk
Hannah Gray	hannah.gray@bromley.gov.uk

Enquiries and Comment via info@westwickhamresidents.com
Or via the Association's website at: www.westwickhamresidents.com

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Front Cover: Where is this and what is the significance of the date? - see page 8

Advertising in WWRA magazine……

Our advertising rates for 2021 are:-

Full page (A5) inside	£150	13 cms wide x 19cms high
Half page	£ 75	13 cms wide x 9cms high
Quarter page	£ 38	13 cms wide x 5cms high

Publication dates are early March, June, September and December

Deadline dates are January 20th, April 20th, July 20th and October 20th

Please contact the Editor for more information

AGM

Given the uncertainty still surrounding the pandemic and the lack of time left to organise an effective AGM for this year, we have decided to write off the annual meeting for this year and return to normal timing by organising one for April 2022. This is disappointing as, because of the pandemic measures in April 2020, we were not able to hold an AGM last year. Looking at the Association's records that have survived, it is interesting to see that some AGMs were held during the time of our last significant national emergency. In April 1940, the AGM included a lecture on 'the growing of vegetables on allotments and in private gardens.' It was also agreed that the Association would continue to operate, "as in peacetime."

A plea for help….

Nine members have left the committee over the last 18 months, mainly due to age, ill health or moving away from the area. Consequently, we are at our lowest committee membership for as long as anyone can remember and it is important that we fill the following roles as soon as possible. If you feel you can help with one of these roles, please contact the secretary.

- Uploading articles to, and deleting articles from, the Association's website,
- Minutes secretary to take, write up and distribute notes of our monthly meetings,
- Assist with looking into traffic, transport or environment issues,
- Liaising on hall hire,
- Chairperson.

Litter picking

For some time now, we have been looking into organising several litter picking exercises. In the past, committee members and residents have got together to target specific areas of the town, such as the station approach and collected the litter and placed it in bags supplied by the Council. The Council have then disposed of the bags. We are presently talking to other local organisations with a view to assisting in joint events and we will advertise dates, times and locations on our FaceBook account and Website when these have been agreed.

TV Licence fee in sheltered, care or nursing accommodation

A correspondent, who is a resident in one of West Wickham's sheltered housing and nursing complexes, says that she and her fellow residents are being asked to pay the full TV licence fee of £159 per annum. This is a significant increase from their current care home discounted charge of £7.50 per annum. Applications by her Housing Association to have this overturned have been unsuccessful for reasons that are not altogether clear. She wonders if residents in similar care establishments are facing the same issue and she would like to hear of their experiences. If you have any comments, please send them to me and I will pass them on to her.

A couple of corrections

Following the item about Jane Austen in the Summer Newsletter editorial, our correspondent has pointed out that Jane's character Lieutenant George Wickham in 'Pride and Prejudice' did take his name from this Parish. I had suggested there was some doubt about this and I am happy to publish this correction.

I also stated that June 21st was midsummer's day when in fact it was the Summer Solstice in the Northern Hemisphere. Midsummer's day was on June 24th and I'm grateful to the member who pointed this out.

I'll try to do better. *Editor*



News from the High Street

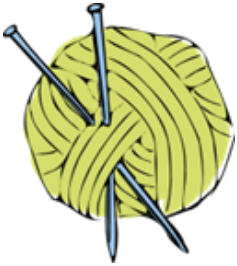


At the time of writing, there have been no major changes in and around the High Street which, in these difficult times, is a tribute to businesses and shop owners; the number of vacant premises remains low. Further easing of Covid-19 restrictions will provide some much needed stability, particularly to cafes, pubs and restaurants. Thankfully TfL has removed the 'pavement extension' barriers which should make deliveries and traffic flow easier.

On the subject of TfL, a downside to the end of restrictions is the major increase in traffic on the High Street. While the majority of drivers are patient and courteous, there are the few who take chances or act like a would-be Lewis Hamilton.



The subject of 'the survival of the High Street' has become a topic for analysis and advice-giving in the media. In West Wickham, in spite of changes over the years, the range of shops and services still provides for everyday needs and more.



Nevertheless, the change in shopping habits, particularly in on-line retail, exacerbated further by Covid 19, is a challenge. In addition, the thorny issues of business rates and high rental costs are another burden. Some shop owners are using innovative approaches to adapt to change, and survive. For example, the Crafty Needle has knitting groups and the Kitchen Range offers cookery classes.



The demise of DIY outlets was written about in the Summer Newsletter - wouldn't it be exciting if something like the Repair Shop could be set up? Now there's a challenge!



TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT

Streetspace Scheme: West Wickham High Street

In the Summer issue of this Newsletter, we reported on this scheme where TfL had installed blue barriers in four sections of the High Street to facilitate social distancing. TfL wrote to Bromley Council and other interested parties, to get views on whether the changes should be made permanent with built out pavements or whether the barriers should just be removed altogether. Following this consultation, TfL has made and published their decision and an extract from their letter follows:-

"Following the feedback we have received, and reviewing monitoring of how much people are using the extended pavement areas, we have decided to remove the blue barriers and return the road to how it was before the pandemic. We believe there is enough space for pedestrians to safely social distance on the existing pavement. Removing the temporary measures will allow us to reinstate parking and loading bays that were removed to make way for the scheme. We will remove the blue barriers by the end of next week. We will be writing to those who responded to the engagement exercise tomorrow but I wanted you to be aware."

The barriers have now been permanently removed. Thank you to everyone who put forward their views, for or against.

Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) expansion

From 25 October 2021, the existing central London Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) will expand to create a single larger zone up to, but not including, the North Circular Road (A406) and South Circular Road (A205). You can check whether your vehicle meets the emission standards and what the charges will be if it doesn't, on the following website:-

tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone/ulez-expansion

Petrol cars that meet the ULEZ standards are *generally* those first registered with the DVLA after 2005, although cars that meet the standards have been available since 2001. Diesel cars that meet the standards are *generally* those first registered with the DVLA after September 2015. See the website for information about vans, minibuses and other types of vehicle.

Trial of new electric buses

A trial of a new electric bus in South London could see the pantograph return to London's buses, some 60 years after the last Trolleybus ran in London. Not the

same as the old system though, as these pantographs will be upside down, mounted on fixed locations with the buses driving up to them to recharge their batteries. If you're not familiar with the term, a pantograph is the unit mounted on the roof of an electric vehicle, typically a train or tram to collect electricity through contact with an overhead wire.



The bus can be charged in just a few minutes, making it ideal for use at end-of-route bus stops. The old trolleybuses needed to have power cables along their entire route, which was unsightly, and the last one ran in London in 1962. If the trial works, in 2022 a fleet of pantograph charged buses will return to London's streets.

The latest development is part of TfL's plans to convert its bus fleet to zero-emission at the point of use, by switching them to electric supply. A number of bus garages are already switching to electric buses, and this works well for around three-quarters of London's buses which have compact routes and can return to the garage for a battery top-up. However, that leaves about a quarter of bus routes unsuitable for that sort of conversion to electric battery operation.

A trial of a hydrogen double-decker bus will investigate that alternative, but TfL says that it has high costs and a limited supply chain. So, they're looking to test an idea for "opportunity charged" buses, which have their batteries topped up along the route at convenient locations, by overhead power supplies.

The trial being proposed is along Route 358, which runs along a long path between Crystal Palace and Orpington and passes through part of West Wickham: Links Way and South Eden Park Road. The route is currently served by a fleet of single-deck diesel buses, which will be replaced by the sleek looking 'tram' from Spanish bus and coach maker, Irizar.

When the new electric buses pull into Crystal Palace or Orpington bus stops, a pantograph will drop down from the charging unit to connect with the bus and top up the batteries.

Item courtesy of Ian's List website



Well, did you know where the picture on the front cover was taken?

It is on the side of the Railway Hotel in Red Lodge Road. 1882 is the year the station and Hotel both opened.

Peter Leigh

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Deer Around Here

I have always puzzled how, in an area as populated as south-east England, herds of large, wild, herbivorous mammals are able to move through our landscape, relatively unnoticed. However, this is exactly what happens with deer. You're more likely to see the fleeting outline of a distant cervid (the scientific family name for deer) than the animal itself. Deer often give their presence away to the casual observer, as russet/buff tinged, shadows prancing away effortlessly into the far undergrowth.

The apparent covertness of deer seems particularly odd, as some authorities estimate that the UK deer population sits at approximately 2M individuals (or 2 deer for every 33 humans!). Some say that deer numbers are higher, at present, than they have ever been for a 1,000 years.

The Rut

It's possible to see deer at any time of year. Nevertheless, for me the autumn months are when they are at their most impressive. This is because male deer (bucks) display full-grown antlers and some of our larger species engage in territorial displays in an attempt to win the affections of females (or does). In some settings, the buck's behaviour escalates from loud groaning and parallel walks to locking antlers and fighting. It possible to observe this behaviour in the London area (see below for locations).

Autumn also feels like the best the season for observing deer. There's something quite primal about hearing the roar of a displaying buck, echo across the damp autumn air, through the low, orange autumn light in a British woodland. Perhaps this recalls something deep-seated in us all, a time when reading the behaviour of such beasts was a vital activity for our survival.

Is there a problem with deer?

The issue of whether deer cause a problem rather depends on your stand-point. Certainly, in many parts of the country deer are a serious hazard to motorists. Highways England and other local authorities invest a lot in fencing to prevent deer entering major road sections. Some deer species are linked with causing damage to human cereal and root crops, especially roe and fallow deer. Deer have also been linked to the spread of the tick *Ixodes ricinus*, which is the main host for

the bacteria *Borrelia burgdorferi* that causes Lyme disease. I know this latter issue to be particularly prevalent in the New Forest and South Downs. There are those who advocate a role for much increased culling to regulate deer numbers. This is supported by the role fresh venison might play as an alternative source of sustainable red meat if consumed more widely. Finally, excessive deer grazing is linked to declines in some valued flowering plant species and bark stripping and damage to coppice woodlands. Conversely, I imagine deer are of tremendous economic value being the primary draw to several regional deer parks in the south-east. The revenue raised from deer stalking is not insubstantial in rural areas. Finally deer are a natural component of British landscapes. Few would dispute that seeing a deer is often the highlight of a rural day out.

Where to see a deer

I have observed adult roe deer in Birch Wood (just south of Kent Gate Way/Addington Road), in the wooded parts of West Wickham Common and in meadows near Saltbox Hill. The closest record I have personally made of a fallow deer is near the A21, out towards Badgers Mount, but doubtless they occur nearer. All my observations have been down to lucky chance, whilst out walking or running.



Roe Deer: Ken Billington. Wikimedia Commons.

Perhaps a more reliable option is to travel to one of the well-known deer parks in London or Kent. The sites I know best are Richmond Park and Bushy Park in south-west London and Knole Park in Sevenoaks, Kent (which is only a 40-minute drive from West Wickham). At the former you can see our largest species the red deer and fallow deer. At Knole there are herds of fallow deer.

For those deer watchers among you, please stay a suitable distance so as not to distress the animal and keep your dog under control, if you have one. If visiting during the rut, be especially sure to observe the animals from a respectful distance as they are a good deal more aggressive.

If you want to find out more, the British Deer Society also has a lot of useful information and some lovely photography: https://www.bds.org.uk

If you fancy your tracking skills, look for footprints of deer, which are often easier to find than the animal itself. Deer have cloven hooves which create two oblong, pointed-toe impressions, that sit alongside each other in the rough shape of an upside-down heart. The Field Studies Council and Mammal Society have produced an inexpensive fold-out, called 'A Guide to British Mammal Tracks and Signs' should you see yourself as an aspiring Ray Mears (https://www.nhbs.com/a-guide-to-british-mammal-tracks-and-signs-book). The wet mud created during autumn is great for looking for animal tracks. Another sign of their presence are coarse, brown/white hairs snagged at the top of metal wire fences, signalling the place a deer bounded over a fence.

Of course one never knows what will turn up. This is the joy of studying nature. Jeremy the escaped adult male, red deer, complete with a full grown set of antlers, caused Park Hill Park in Croydon to be closed for 10-days in 2015 (https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/stag-which-went-on-the-loose-in-croydon-for-10-days-is-finally-caught-and-relocated-to-private-estate-a3083231.html).

London Wildlife Trust and Greenspace Information for Greater London are running the London Deer Survey and are interested to find out if you've seen a deer near here: https://www.wildlondon.org.uk/campaign/record-your-sightings/london-deer-survey

Richard Gowing

London Outer Orbital Path (LOOP) festival

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the London loop, the popular 150-mile walking circuit of London which passes by West Wickham. During September Ramblers groups in and around London are planning a Festival – Love Your Loop – and will be organising a number of walks and other events to showcase the amazing variety of scenery and interesting sites along its route. Inner London Ramblers hope to be able to work with other organisations and community groups with an interest in the Loop to provide an exciting programme of events and activities that will appeal to local people of all ages. If you're interested, keep an eye out for publicity regarding local events.

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The work of London Air Ambulance in Wickham

At about 4.45pm on the 7th of June this year, a 77 year-old man crashed his car into Caffe Nero in West Wickham High Street. Police, ambulance and the London air ambulance helicopter attended the scene where the driver was found unresponsive. Also injured were two women, one of them a pedestrian, and all three were taken to hospital where none of them was found to have life threatening injuries.

A local resident, Karen Barlow, was so moved by this event and the work of the air ambulance, that the following day she put this post on social media:

"I think everyone in West Wickham is shaken up by the awful car accident which happened early yesterday evening where unfortunately a car crashed into Caffe Nero's window causing several casualties. My 10 year old son, his friend and his friend's dad were outside Croft Radio at the time and had they chosen a different route they could have easily been involved. I'm sure there are many others who are thinking their loved ones could have been on the scene. We are all thinking about those involved and sending our thoughts their way.

Whilst tidying my daughter's bedroom in our loft extension I was lucky enough to witness the response and work of the Air Ambulance in trying to find a safe place to land on busy Ravenswood Avenue. I was astonished to see the helicopter metres from our roof, the crew actually leaning out to check for places and within seconds opting for the car park. This is the second time in recent weeks that West Wickham has needed it."



Karen went on to organise a fund to collect donations from the community to say thank you and also to help them to continue in the future.

Not many people realise that the air ambulance is a charity and Karen wanted to raise awareness of this particular aspect. The result of Karen's efforts in fundraising following this post amounted to a £1,350 donation. In addition, many donated directly to the Charity so that they could use the GiftAid option. This can be

done using the following link:

londonsairambulance.org.uk/donate

Lisa Bridge, the Community Fundraising Co-ordinator for the air ambulance, was delighted with Karen's efforts and also expressed her gratitude for the donations from the residents of our town who had donated directly. She also arranged for Alex Sutherland, Head of Communications, to provide the following item about the vital work of the organisation.



London Air Ambulance with crew Andy and Andrea

London Air Ambulance – the facts

London's Air Ambulance recently attended a serious road traffic collision in West Wickham. Thanks to support from the people of London our team were able to be there in less than 10 minutes from activation, delivering urgent, cutting-edge medical care when time was of the essence.

The helicopter and rapid response car teams are there 24/7 for every one of the 10 million people who live and work in London, including the residents of West Wickham. If someone is critically injured, the senior doctor and paramedic led team are dispatched within minutes. It is a Charity that operates in partnership with the NHS. It costs £11million to deliver the service each year, with the majority of this needing to be raised through public donations.

The aircraft always flies with two Pilots, one to fly and one to navigate, during daylight hours. This is how the medics were delivered to the scene in West Wickham. At night and during adverse weather conditions the crews

switch to rapid response cars, driven by the paramedic with the doctor navigating. The cars will race to scene using blue lights and carry exactly the same equipment as the helicopter. At scene, the medical team can perform complex interventions that otherwise could only be done in hospital. When a patient is critically injured, they may not be able to wait until an ambulance can take them to hospital, so London's Air Ambulance medics will use their specialist equipment to stabilise the patient and buy vital time. The medics can undertake procedures such as open heart surgery and REBOA (a pioneering technique that helps stop blood loss), give anaesthetic and provide blood transfusions.



Reasons that London's Air Ambulance may be dispatched include serious road traffic collisions, falls from height, stabbings and shootings and injuries on the rail network. The service has also attended most major incidents in London including 7/7, London Bridge and the Grenfell Tower fire. In 2020 the service treated 1494 patients, including 41 in the Bromley Borough. London's Air Ambulance has been operating since 1989 and in that time has treated over 42,000 patients.

Lisa Bridge, Community Fundraising Officer for London's Air Ambulance Charity said;



"Not many people realise that we are a charity, and rely on the generosity of the public to keep our service operational. It is only thanks to our incredible supporters, like all those in West Wickham who kindly donated to the local fundraiser, that we are able to be there when London calls. Thank you on behalf of all our crews, and our patients for making sure that we can deliver an advanced trauma team to the side of a patient when every second counts."

See next page for details of a charity fundraiser in West Wickham for the Air Ambulance.

Charity Swimalong

London's Air Ambulance Charity

organised by

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and supported by other local clubs at

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on *Saturday 30th October 2021 between 4pm and 7pm*

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Proposals for the Library and Station Road/Croft Avenue Car Park

It is hoped that as many of you as possible got to see the exhibition of these proposals at the library during the last two weeks of July or at least managed to see some of the publications and flyers that have been produced for this project. The work so far has looked at a scheme that improves the library facilities and retains the current building façade because of its architectural merit. The library also includes new community facilities, a ground floor café, maker space and staffing facilities. To support this development of the library, the scheme includes the provision of new homes on the car park site. To provide access to the new housing, the service road to the rear of the properties along Station Road will require improvement and inclusion to make the site feasible – this road would also need to be adopted by the Council. If approved, the proposals will be subject to planning applications.

The key points regarding the housing proposals given at the exhibition.

- A review of car parking facilities involving surveys taken prior to the pandemic show that the loss of car parking spaces can be accommodated by the other car parks in West Wickham and any potential overspill can be accommodated on local roads.
- The proposed scheme will be a mix of social housing as well as affordable housing consisting of 26 properties with balconies, a 90 square metre communal playground and 12 car parking spaces. A plan given at the exhibition shows 14 flats and 12 properties in a stacked mews configuration. (In separate correspondence, the Council confirm they are proposing 14 affordable homes and 12 private sale homes).
- The Council sees this as an opportunity to meet their housing targets without building on green spaces.
- Feedback from residents and other interested parties will be considered in August 2021 and planning applications will be submitted in September 2021.
- Following the determination of the planning applications over the Winter, work would commence in Summer 2022.

In separate visits by committee members to the exhibition in the library and talking to other residents there, it was clear that they were generally happy with most of the proposals for the library improvement but had significant concerns with the

housing provision, particularly the loss of parking facilities and the knock-on effects on on-street parking in local roads resulting from providing only 12 parking spaces for the residents of 26 properties and their visitors. Concerns were also expressed regarding access, particularly the service road, the mix of housing, the size of gardens and landscaping generally.

There will be views both opposing and supporting these proposals, so it is essential that residents take the opportunity provided by the planning application process to make these known. This is unlikely to be until mid to late September at the earliest and we will publicise the relevant planning references on our website and Facebook account at that time.

Leisure Centre Development

The original proposal was to build a new Leisure Centre incorporating a new Library and residential housing units on the site of West Wickham Pools. That scheme proved not to be financially viable and, as can be seen above, the Library development is now subject to separate proposals. Development of the Leisure Centre is currently on hold while the Council explore, with outside bodies, ways to make such a development possible.

Appeals

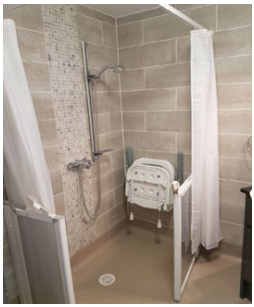
In the Summer edition, three applications were shown as having been refused by Bromley Council and had gone to appeal. The proposal for a detached, two storey, three bedroom house with associated parking and bin storage at **15 Woodland Way** has been allowed on appeal. **(20/01482).** The appeal for the proposals at **62 Braemar Gardens (20/02263)** has been dismissed. At the time of writing, no appeal decision has been published for the application concerning **9 Copse Avenue (20/02367).**

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West Wickham Scouts "KEPT CALM & CARRIED ON"

The Scout Groups of West Wickham have been "Virtual" during the lockdown. The usual weekly meetings continued to take place but were on line, with an amazing array of activities for the benefit of all our young people.

Initially it was very much a challenge, particularly for the less computer savvy leaders, to conduct meetings on our computer screens, but quickly it became a virtual lifeline. We were helped along the way with ideas from the 1st Virtual Scout Group, this is a virtual "Facebook" page where leaders, from across the whole country, posted ideas of how to run Zoom meetings for the young people.

We were able to play games, for example a scavenger hunt was great fun as youngsters dashed around their homes in search of items beginning with a certain letter. We also held virtual camping events with the young people sleeping somewhere different. We were able to utilise virtual guests, these included Birds of Prey, a Magician and even a Beaver leader from Wales, who taught the Beavers some spoken Welsh! It was business as usual as far as it was possible to do so.

Beavers are aged 6 to 8 years, Cubs are 8 to 10.5 years, Scouts 10.5 to 14 years & Explorers are 14 to 18 years. Scout membership is completely open at all ages, to girls as well as boys. Thankfully we have now returned to face to face meetings and here are some pictures of the Beavers & Cubs in action:-



The 7th West Wickham Cubs @ Keston Ponds



A 7th West Wickham Cub, at Frylands Wood, using a rope bridge he has just built!

Scouting is a lot of Fun.

If anyone is interested in a place for their child in Beavers, the contact details of the several different Scout Groups operating Colonies in West Wickham are given on the next page.

We would particularly like you to contact us if you would be interested in becoming a volunteer leader; the more leaders there are the more young people can enjoy the numerous benefits of Scouting



The 7th West Wickham Beavers "Dams Colony" actually building a Dam!

"GO ON, GET IN TOUCH TODAY AND JOIN THE ADVENTURE TOMORROW"

Group: 1st West Wickham
Section: Beavers, Cubs,Scouts and Explorers
HQ: Greystones Hall, Ravenswood Crescent
Enquiries To: Jeff Ross-Myring
Phone Number: 020 8777 8311
Email: jrossmyring@btinternet.com
Section Meeting: Beavers: Wednesday at 17:45 - 19:00
Cubs: Friday at 18:30 - 20:30
Scouts: Thursday at 19:30 - 21:30
Explorers: Wednesday at 20:00 - 21:30 (Provisional)

Group: 3rd West Wickham
Section: Beavers (River)
HQ: Greenacres, Tiepigs Lane, West Wickham, Kent, BR4 9BT
Enquiries To: Alys Helm
Phone Number: 01959 574 585
Email: alyshelm@gmail.com
Section Meeting: Thursday at 17:30 - 18:30

Group: 7th West Wickham
Section: Beavers (DAMS) & (LOGS)
HQ: St Francis Church Hall, Ravenswood Avenue, West Wickham, BR4 0PW
Beavers
St Mary's Church Hall, The Avenue
West Wickham BR4 0DX
Enquiries To: David Willis
Phone Number: 020 8657 0698
Email: dwillis356@aol.com
(DAMS) Section Meeting: Wednesday at 18.15 - 19.15
(LOGS) Section Meeting: Wednesday at 17:00 - 18:00

Group: 8th West Wickham
Section: Beavers
HQ: Hawes Lane Methodist Church, Hawes Lane, West Wickham, BR4 9AA
Enquiries To: Stuart Haydon
Phone Number: 020 8777 1365
Email: stuart.haydon@btopenworld.com
Section Meeting: Wednesday at 18:00 - 19:00

AN APPEAL FOR EX-MEMBERS OF THE 6TH & 7th West Wickham Scout Groups.

We are actively looking for ex members of both Scout Groups who were members of either group at any time in their lives. We would warmly invite them to join "The Friends" of the 6th & 7th West Wickham. The idea is to bring together and reunite anyone who was a Cub, Scout or Venture Scout with other friends from their Scouting days.

If you are or know someone who was a member, please contact Dave Willis AGSL 7th WW on email address dwillis356@aol.com for further details – Thank you. "The Fun continues"

The 7th West Wickham Beavers take on the Croydon District climbing wall @ Pinewoods





A new Beaver enjoying the Assault Course at Frylands Wood Scout Campsite.



The 7th West Wickham Cubs enjoying "The Shield Game" @ Sparrows Den

Rotary
West Wickham

Rotary is becoming increasingly involved in caring for the Environment and became a global Area of Focus for the worldwide organisation with effect from 1st July 2021.

Rotary in West Wickham has been involved in environmental projects for some time e.g. in 2018 we got involved in tree planting and planted one tree per member in a national forest.

Between September 2020 and June 2021 we became involved in environmental projects working with other groups, such as Friends of Blakes Park and Environmental Action Coney Hall to clear litter from local recreational sites and undertook litter picks ourselves in Spring Park Woods. In total we conducted 9 Litter Picks and have more planned, and we are also looking to other initiatives that we can start.

We are happy to help any other local groups to care for those places that are so important to the local community.

With regard to the carbon footprint of our activities, the pandemic actually helped us to benefit the environment by stopping us travelling to meetings - not something that we had originally planned as a project!

In June we restarted our activity at Rotary Corner to raise funds for charities, with a Plant Sale, Cake and Book Sale and a Bric-a Brac Sale on three separate Saturdays raising £1,380 for St. Christopher's, children's cancer charities and Guide Dogs for the Blind. Our thanks to the public for their support.

Next time you see us there, come and say hello and find out more about us and how you could become involved.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) - West Wickham High Street Car Parks

Neighbours of the car park behind Carpetright and the one in Ravenswood Avenue, have made several reports of car engines revving and tyres screeching around the car parks late at night, sometimes as late as 2:30am. This disturbs sleep and is incredibly stressful for those who have to suffer it. The Council and Police are aware of these complaints and one of our Ward Councillors, Mark Brock, quotes below a response sent to a resident recently.

"I can confirm the idea to install speed humps and rumble strips in both car parks will be going ahead soon. Our contractor has already put in the order, and we are now awaiting an installation date. The options of segregating the car lanes off with kerbing in the car parks is still currently being discussed. With regards to the installation of CCTV, we already have CCTV in Ravenswood Avenue car park. Any ASB there needs to be reported to the police with dates and times to make finding the footage easier. The options for the CCTV in the car park behind Carpetright are still in talks. However, any current evidence of ASB occurring regularly there would be helpful."

It is also very helpful when residents report any issues to the police, as the Councillors can request a report from them to help towards making a better case for preventive measures.

Annual Subscription

The annual subscription was only partially collected for 2020 because of lockdown but we hope to resume collections for 2021 soon. We're grateful to those members who have been paying for two years subscriptions to make up for last year's shortfall.

Collecting subscriptions can be a fraught time for both Road Stewards, who often have to make several visits to find members in, and for the members themselves who increasingly do not have cash on hand. Consequently, we are looking at ways to collect subscriptions electronically both face to face and remotely.

We will keep you updated on developments via our Facebook account, our Website and this Newsletter.

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