Newsletter
SUMMER 2019



West Wickham
Residents' Association

www.westwickhamresidents.com

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Advertising in WWRA magazine……

Our advertising rates for 2019 are:-

Full page (A5) inside	£150	13 cms wide x 19cms high
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Quarter page	£ 38	13 cms wide x 5cms high or 6.5cms wide x 9 cms high

Please contact the Editor for more information

Chairman's Report - 90th AGM Report, Friday 22nd March 2019

My second and final year as Chairman of the WWRA has focused on **our function within the community**; we have reappraised the structure of your Committee in terms of our involvement in certain areas, for example, planning, policing and to some extent the environment. Accordingly, we have made some changes to our Rules and Constitution and have added a new Dissolution Clause. With regard to our A.G.M. we have also moved away from the more traditional approach of past years. Unfortunately, no one has come forward to take on the **role of Chairman** so, as an interim measure, we have an email address to which issues or concerns can be sent; these will then be assigned for action to members of the Committee. The email address, which will be printed in our Newsletter and also on our website, is: info@westwickhamresidents.com

On a positive note, we are pleased that four **new members have joined** our Committee; they will, I am sure, bring new ideas and enthusiasm to the Association. So we extend a warm welcome to: **Christopher Burgess, Dan Olsen, Russell James** and **Matthew Smith.**

While there are still a number of empty premises in and around the **High Street**, it is good to see several reoccupied: **Floor Design Studios** to 85 Station Road (formerly Age Concern); **Hisar Meze Bar** to 68 High Street (formerly KFC) and a **Turkish Supermarket** to 89-91 High Street (former supa-Electrics). Sadly, members of the **Business Community of West Wickham**, owing to a lack of support or interest from most businesses on the High Street, made a decision to step down at the end of 2018. While active, they put on three successful events – The 2017 Christmas Festival, Easter Hunt and The Royal Fete. Money raised from these contributed towards the Christmas Lights.

We are very pleased to hear that **The Village Day** will be happening once again on **May Day** in **Blake's Park (Monday May 6th 10-4)**. This has been a very successful event in previous years and we hope that it will be well supported and that the sun will shine!

We had hoped, in terms of **Planning,** that the Leisure Centre Plans would be on view for public consultation; at time of writing this has not yet happened. In the Spring Newsletter we advised members to log on to the Bromley Council website to keep individually informed of further developments www.bromley.gov.uk/westwickhampoolandlibrary. We also aim to keep members updated on our own WWRA website. However, we cannot comment on rumour or speculation.

The majority of planning applications continue to be for extensions, most of which fall within General Permitted Development. We objected to an application for **Hawes Lane Clinic** to be converted to a **2 storey Day Nursery** as traffic implications were not addressed. The application was refused and went to appeal; the appeal has also been refused. **We would value members' views on what they want the Committee to focus on, given the major changes to Planning Laws.**

Related to planning, **Bromley Council** is tasked with building **641 new homes annually between 2015 – 2025** (the London Mayor is to review this figure during 2019).

If our green spaces (50% of Bromley borough) are to be protected, the pressure will be to build on Brownfield sites, hence the proposed increase in apartments in and around the High Street. Anyone interested in reading more of the **Bromley Local Plan** should visit the Council website: http://www.bromley.gov.uk/localplan . Alternatively, you might prefer to read an analysis of the lengthy document on our website, with reference in particular to its impact on Bromley and West Wickham. A shortened version of this will also be printed in our Summer Newsletter.
Bromley Council is currently against introducing a **20mph Speed Limit** on designated roads. This is a thorny issue with many pros and cons. We suggest that WWRA members contact their local councillors with their concerns. There will also be an article related to this topic in our Summer Newsletter.

The Rotary Club has now had a **defibrillator** installed at Thackray Williams Solicitors, Station Road (see Rotary Club Notice board for details); this is in addition to the defibrillator available at the Leisure Centre**. Defibrillators** are also to be installed in Wickham Hall and Medhurst Hall, Sussex Road.

Bromley Council, along with many other Local Councils, is facing difficult times, with decreases in funding and an increase in pressure to provide Services. So, a thank you to the Council for continuing to plant trees where they are needed (your Association still contributes a sizeable number) and for maintaining hanging baskets and flower beds as well as ensuring that the High Street is kept clean and tidy.
I would like to thank one of our **long standing members** - an 'unsung hero' in terms of distributing our Newsletters. Peter Morton receives around 5000 Newsletters which need to be apportioned to distributors and delivered each quarter. A thank you also to Peter's wife Christine for putting up with the piles of newsletters which, no doubt she is drafted in to help sort! A thank you, as always, to our stalwart **Road Stewards**, without whom there would be no Association.

We are sorry to lose **Keith Harris** who has decided to leave the Committee to take on new duties elsewhere. We thank Keith for his work on the Planning sub-committee and as a major distributor of our Newsletters. We would be very happy to welcome him back at any time. We also say farewell and thank you to **Bob Baxter**, who edited out Newsletter for two years; we wish him well for the future.

Finally, a thank you to all the Committee for their support while I have been Chairman, in particular to the two other officers Richard Douglas and Katrina Iddon, always willing to offer help and advice. We hope that, as we head into the final decade of our 'almost century' long existence, that someone will come forward to take on the role of Chairman, to continue to work for 'the betterment of West Wickham'.

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TREASURER'S REPORT FOR YEAR 2018

Income

Subscriptions

2018 again saw the majority of member subscriptions collected, thanks to the continued efforts of our team of Road Stewards. Whilst a few came in after the year end, we have recorded circa £6,300 for 2018 which is slightly above 2017. This is despite deliveries to a few roads having to be halted in fringe areas due to no one volunteering to help. Overall the membership remains good and subscriptions remain at £2 per household for 2019.

Advertising

The newsletter's adverts brought in circa £3,400, slightly lower than 2017. This income covers most of the printing costs, which remain steady for four issues a year.

Expenditure

Administration

Our main costs are for printing the newsletters. We have also printed 'Membership Cards' again this year but may dispense with these next year as many do not find these useful. Insurance cover was slightly higher in 2018 (circa £400) due to adjustment in the cover. We also have charges for running our Website and Hall Hire.

Donations

The WWRA made a donation of £3,000 for street tree planting and also a donation of £1,000 to continue to fund the Oak Lodge road crossing attendant fell into this year's accounts. Overall the WWRA funds stood at around £10,600, lower than in 2017, but above the level judged as a sensible balance to retain. A more detailed set of the 2018 accounts, audited and approved by our accountants, will be available on the website.

Richard Douglas

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

	2017	2018
INCOME	**£**	**£**
Subscriptions Collected	6,195	6,336
Advertising income from Newsletters	3,981	3,471
Income from Social Activities / Screen Hire	270	40
Interest - from N&I Account	36	54
Other	0	0
Sub total	**10,482**	**9,901**
EXPENDITURE		
Admin		
Hall Hire Charges	506	429
Newsletter Printing Costs	5,865	5,957
Sundry costs, stationary, printer ink etc	1,042	298
Insurance Cover Premium	274	380
Postage Costs	19	25
Sub total	**7,706**	**7,089**
Donations		
Cancer Research / Blakes - fete / tombola	80	-
Bromley Council - Additional Street Tree Planting	3,000	3,000
British Legion - Rembrance Day		430
High Street - Christmas Tree Provision	300	971
Donation to help fund Road Crossing Attendant	-	1,000
Sub total	**3,380**	**5,401**
YEAR END STATUS OF ALL FUNDS:	**£13,152**	**£10,563**

Collection of Subscriptions 2019

We are pleased to say that we will be able to keep subscriptions at the same level as in previous years. Our road stewards do a grand job completing their collections - often against all the odds and having to call several times. It is a sign of our times that many people no longer carry cash. WWRA is looking into other ways of collecting subscriptions - no better solution has as yet presented itself. Please, please stash £2 somewhere in readiness for when your road steward calls for this year's collection. Thank you for your continued membership.

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News from the High Street



It's good to see new businesses moving into some of our empty premises and hope that eventually more will be occupied. Welcome to Hisar Meze Bar (ex-KFC) to 68 High Street. We wish them every success for the future.

Wickham Foodstore will be opening shortly in the old supa-electrics premises, 89-91 High Street; we look forward to the 'Grand Opening'!

Sadly, Goodman's Furnishings, Red Lodge Road, has closed its doors after many years of trading in West Wickham.

West Wickham is 'the place to be' for the well dressed male, as you will read in the short feature included in this Newsletter, about Gino's, Station Road and AG Plado, the High Street.

Business Improvement District (BID)

West Wickham businesses are currently considering a **BID** initiative to help bring improvements to The High Street and surrounding streets. If brought to a successful conclusion, businesses will contribute a percentage of their rateable value, as will the Council and a dedicated person will be employed to arrange events to increase footfall on the high street. Marshalling events and so forth will have to be carried out by the traders. It is expected to raise £120,000p.a. There will be more information about the BID in the next Newsletter

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Friends of West Wickham Library

'American Presidents'

A talk by Joe Mendell



Wednesday July 10th 2019 @ 2.30pm

'Monsters in our Midst'

A talk by Alan Payne





Wednesday September 11th 2019 @ 2.30pm

At West Wickham Library, Glebe Way, West Wickham
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Rotary West Wickham

The first three months of 2019 saw many activities with other local clubs including Quiz Nights, a Magic Evening and a Rock Choir concert. In addition we also enjoyed talks hosted either by ourselves or local clubs and have been entertained on subjects as diverse as "The Old Palace – its Bishops and Buildings" and a talk by the Army Engagement Team.

One memorable talk was by a remarkable 90 year old lady who escaped the Holocaust in WW2. It is hard to imagine today what she lived through, but it included the loss of family in the camps, the loss of civil liberties, being "hidden" in an orphanage by a Lutheran priest and being reunited with surviving members of her family in London as someone recognised her brother-in law's voice on the BBC, which enabled them to make contact.

Our charity work continues and we have already donated £7,000 in total since the start of 2019. At our Charities Allocation Night in late March we further "earmarked" over £9,500 for local , national and international charities. Much of the money is donated by **YOU,** the residents of West Wickham, so we send our heartfelt thanks for your generosity.

Rotary West Wickham is essentially a service club, looking to help others in our community. We are part of the global Rotary organisation and we meet every Tuesday evening at The Warren, Coney Hall. To find out more about us, or get involved, contact Christine Atkinson on 020 8650 0637 or at christineatkns@aol.com.

PLANNING

The Bromley Local Plan 2019

The Bromley Local Plan was adopted in January 2019. It sets out the vision and objectives for the borough to the 2030s and the strategic and more detailed policies used in determining local planning applications together with a policies map and specific site proposals. It includes details of what Bromley needs to do to meet the London Plan 2016. The full document (420 pages) is available via the Council website at: -
https://www.bromley.gov.uk/downloads/file/4768/bromley_local_plan

A 3-page summary of the local plan can be found on the Association's website at:-
https://www.westwickhamresidents.com/

Some extracts from the plan are shown below. (Paragraph and page numbers refer to the full plan as given on the Bromley website).

- 641 net additional homes to be delivered every year during the period 2015-2025. Paras 1.2.16 & 2.0.3
- Bromley is designated as a Metropolitan Town Centre and Orpington a Major Town Centre. Para 1.2.16.
- West Wickham is designated as one of five District Centres. (The others being Crystal Palace, Beckenham, Penge & Petts Wood). Para 6.2.2

In planning new development:

- Private/public open space and appropriate car parking are key considerations. Para 1.3.12
- The provision of car charging points, cycle routes, car clubs and the maximum use of public transport must be considered. Para 1.3.17

With respect to education, provision for primary places has been increasing significantly and steadily for the last 6 years and the increased pressure for places is now feeding through to the secondary sector. Paras 3.3.2 & 3.3.3

Schools affected in or near West Wickham:-

- Wickham Common Primary will be expanded. (Currently Green Belt). Table 4, page 92
- New Primary School on the Langley Park Boys and Girls school sites. (Currently Metropolitan Open Land—MOL). Table 5, page 93

Both Wickham Common and Langley Park sites will be re-designated as Urban Open Space. (UOS) Policy 29, pages 29-100

With respect to transport, the council is safeguarding land for the possible extension of the DLR from Catford to Bromley South via Bromley North. Policy 36, page 114

The Council continues to lobby for improved public transport connectivity with Canary Wharf, principally to provide access to this growing employment centre. As the London Overground network success continues, the feasibility of extending from New Cross Gate to Bromley North is currently being explored. Para 4.0.24

Until demonstration by TfL of a sound business case, taking into account the detriment to existing national rail services to Hayes, the Council will not support safeguarding of land for any extension of the London Underground. Para 4.0.25

The Romano-British site, Wickham Court Farm, West Wickham, a site of substantial Romano-British settlement has been scheduled as an Ancient Monument. Para 5.1.19

Defribillators

Fully automated defibrillators are now available for use in both Wickham Hall and Medhurst Hall.

- On your next visit please locate the position of the defibrillator in case you need to use it!
- In Wickham Hall it is in the small lobby from the single entry door, on the wall facing the back wall of the stage steps.
- In Medhurst Hall it is on the right hand wall of the entrance hallway.
- Please also use the link below to view a training video which will show you how to use the defibrillator

http://uk.heartsine.com/support/aed-training-videos/

Please view the **Heartsine SAM 500P** training video, the machine will guide you through each stage of its use with simple easy to follow steps.
The machine is fitted with an adult battery pad/pak but a **pink** children's pak is available within the cabinet. [The children's battery pak should be used for children under the age of 8 or under 25 Kgs in weight]
If you have any questions or queries regarding the defibrillators please contact me on tonyldunne@virginmedia.com and I will endeavour to help!

Tony Dunne
Hall Trustee

M.B.A Partnership

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A look at Wickham's Past No. 13 - by Peter Leigh



St. John the Baptist Church Circa 1905—1920

The Old Parish Church

St John the Baptist, more commonly known as the church on the hill, occupies a site which has probably been used for worship since pagan times but there was certainly a Christian church there in 1086 when the Doomsday Book recorded that Wickham had a church, a mill, 24 farmers and their families and 13 serfs. The present church was built in 1490 by Henry Haydon, Lord of the Manor who lived next door at Wickham Court. The rood screen, font and the piscina in the south wall of the chancel all date from that time. In 1844 a major restoration was started and various walls and the tower were rebuilt. During the second world war the medieval stained glass was removed, wrapped in newspaper and buried in creosoted wooden chests. The church suffered only minor damage from an incendiary bomb but in 1987 in the great storm, a lime tree upended the lych-gate, now happily restored although the pond which once watered the gentry's horses while they attended service, has sadly been filled in.

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ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE

As we are sure you are all aware, WWRA has been donating money each year to Bromley Council for the provision of extra street trees. In fact, since we first started doing this in 2007, we have donated £23,849 which has supplied 109 trees, covering all parts of West Wickham and in addition we have paid to open 12 new pits. The vast majority of these trees have been planted at the request of residents and we know from the response that we have had each year plus many tree related emails, that our tree lined streets are appreciated and enjoyed by a great many people. So we have always been confident that this was a worthwhile use of WWRA funds, good for the environment and a legacy for future generations.

Unfortunately, the Arboricultural Manager, who we have been working with for many years and who was always so reliable, left Bromley Council last summer. We do understand that this has left the tree department with staffing difficulties in addition to coping with new contractors, however, we have been constantly frustrated over the last six months by their failure to communicate with us. There is an issue with the last 7 trees plus new pits, funded from last year's donation, that are still not planted. We learnt, not from the Council, but through a resident emailing about a different tree matter, that these trees, which come under Phase 2, will now not be planted until the 2019/2020 season, which leaves us with 7 very disappointed residents. Not to inform us of this decision is not only unprofessional but extremely bad manners.

The success of our donating scheme has been due to liaising closely with the council on all aspects of the tree planting and indeed, because of this very good working relationship, we have been able to help many residents over the years with tree problems unrelated to WWRA funding.

With the council's failure to communicate either by email or phone, we no longer feel confident that our money will be used according to our wishes, and sadly the committee has made the unanimous decision that, certainly for the time being, we do not feel able to donate any more funds for trees. Our apologies to the residents who are already on the list for a tree this year.

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A Thank-you for your Help West Wickham...

Bromley Biodiversity Partnership (BBP) thank-you so much for all the records you sent us last year. They were forwarded to London Wildlife Trust and the London Wildlife Records Centre, known as GIGL. We were especially impressed with the number of hedgehog records and the interesting observation sent with your house sparrow records that they appear to be returning to gardens where they have been absent. Plotted on a map, the hedgehog records were all between Corkscrew Hill and Langley Park Golf Course, an area divided into 3 by Glebe Way and the railway line. It is likely that some records are of the same animal, but we also wondered whether there are 3 separate populations. Adult hedgehogs need to eat 33 -100% of their body weight in millipedes, earwigs, beetles, worms, slugs etc. every night and large green spaces are important sources of invertebrates. Most hedgehog records we have so far received in the borough are from gardens close to green spaces. As well as providing feeding opportunities, gardens linked by small holes or tunnels beneath fences provide very important corridors along which hedgehogs (and other animals/birds) can move between green spaces in relative safety. The high number of records from West Wickham suggests that many of you have wildlife friendly gardens. Are there hedgehogs foraging around other green spaces which could be linked by gardens? We look forward to hearing from you in 2019.

As well as asking for records of hedgehog, house sparrow, breeding toads, swift and purple emperor butterfly in 2019, BBP is asking people to plant at least one native tree or shrub in their gardens this year because native invertebrates are adapted to eat native plants and the massive decline in invertebrate numbers in the last 30-50 years is causing grave problems for many rare and declining species in Bromley, including bats and many birds. We would also like to extend native planting by asking local sports clubs, schools, and parks managers if they could plant more native species in their grounds, or even a species-rich native hedgerow to help link wildlife habitats together. With 56% of UK native species in decline (State of Nature Report 2016) help for biodiversity is vital.

Dr Judith John for Bromley Biodiversity Partnership. Contact bromleybiodiversity@gmail.com

Plant a Native Shrub or Tree for Wildlife!



Hawthorn can support 300+ insect species



Cherry Plum for early pollinators



Beech: 64 insect species eat its leaves



Elder: nectar for insects, fruit for birds & mammals



Sallow: good for early pollinators & insect larvae

Many invertebrates have suffered huge declines since the 1950s, contributing to decreases in animals that eat them.

E.g. birds, bats, hedgehogs and toads.

Flying insects are food for bats & some birds. They start life as larvae, fed by many birds to their chicks.

Native invertebrates are adapted to eat native plant species.

Why not plant at least one UK grown native shrub or small tree in your garden this year?

Ask if it might be possible to plant a native shrub or small tree in your local allotment, school or sports ground or park.

Buy UK grown native shrubs & trees online, e.g. from the Woodland Trust. Plant Nov-March.

For more information about what to plant see www.bromleyfriendsforum.org Look under Biodiversity useful documents 'Hedgeplants to improve biodiversity'.



Hazel: leaves eaten by >70 insect species



Guelder Rose: flowers for pollinators e.g. hoverflies



Dogwood: flowers for pollinators, fruit for



Field Maple: good for pollinators & lichens



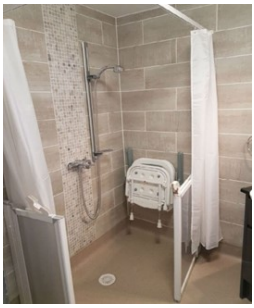
Silver Birch: leaves eaten by 230 insects

Bromley Biodiversity Partnership is a partnership of local groups, organisations and individuals with specific expertise committed to protecting, enhancing and celebrating biodiversity within the London Borough of Bromley.

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Springpark Social Club

In 1954 a group of families came together to form a social club in West Wickham and at the first meeting the name of Springpark Travel & Social Club was adopted, to cover the West Wickham and Shirley area. Travel abroad was just becoming popular, although the main emphasis was on the social aspect of the club. Meetings were initially held twice a month, but soon on a weekly basis. There were speakers on a variety of subjects and social evenings, as well as outings to places of interest, rambles, theatre visits, dances and short holidays. Membership continued to increase and reached its peak of 160 in the mid 1960's.

The club has continued in the same vein since the early days, but the name was changed, as has the membership, from younger people to those who are now retired.
The meetings are held in the Medhurst Hall in Sussex Road, West Wickham on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 2.30 to 4.00pm, usually with a speaker.
Outside activities include outings by coach or public transport, theatre visits and lunches. Visitors and prospective members, both male and female, are welcome and for more information contact Marion James on 020 8289 2957.

Several members have asked me to recognise the efforts and attitude of Chris Collins who does such a good job of keeping our High Street and surrounding roads free from rubbish and litter. He always has a smile and cheerful greeting for passers-by and is a shining example of someone who does his job with pride and good humour.



Chris lives in Woolwich and has worked for the company for 14 years and for 8 years in West Wickham.

Red Lodge Road/Station Road



The proposed junction improvement finally got underway in February after several promises that a start was imminent. The scheme has several aspects with some minor kerb realignment, changes to the road markings (including a double yellow line on Red Lodge Road outside the swimming baths), removal of the traffic island on Beckenham Road and removal of as much street clutter as possible. The scheme includes new traffic signals with improvements for pedestrians and cyclists and should reduce traffic queues. All traffic movements will be retained. The works should also include lowering the kerbs by the width restriction to make it easier for pedestrians particularly those pushing prams or wheelchair users

20 mph Speed Limit

Several members have asked us to expand on our reasons for not supporting the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit on all roads, apart from major roads, as proposed by the Mayor of London and as reported in our last issue.

Firstly, Department of Transport studies indicate that most accidents occur on main roads, not side roads. Moreover their studies on the effectiveness of 20 mph limits across the country do not support a reduction in the number or severity of road casualties. We therefore consider it better to limit 20 mph zones to accident black spots or outside schools in order to emphasize the need for particular caution.

Secondly, we have noted that in areas where there is a blanket 20 mph speed limit, after an initial reduction in average speeds, it is now widely ignored, possibly due to the lack of police resources to enforce it. We

cannot therefore see any point in spending a fortune on all the new signage when it is not going to make any difference.

Lastly, increasing journey times by reducing speed limits will add to pollution. We therefore consider that the decision by Bromley Council not to impose a blanket 20 mph speed limit is the right one.

War Memorial Lights

Since January 2018, the WWRA has been pestering the council to repair the lights that illuminate the war memorial. Initially none of them were working, then they kept blowing a fuse and then, since last Autumn, only one of them worked. Also, the power point that is used for the public address system each Remembrance Sunday did not work and last November we had to plug into a kind neighbour's domestic supply. Happily. we can now report that our persistence has paid off, it has been rewired and is now all working.

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Walk into **Gino's, 97 Station Road** (020 8777 8444) and enter a sensory world, an Aladdin's Cave of suits, jackets and accessories that need to be touched and tried on with care, so contrary to our normal experience of shopping in modern times.

The owner Gino was introduced to the trade of tailoring in his native Sicily by a family friend when he was eleven years old, and began his career in earnest in 1969 in Catford. He subsequently moved to Beckenham and then Hayes and has finally settled in West Wickham where, this year, he celebrates **50 years of service to the trade!**



Gino Plado (right) and toastmaster in one of Gino's tailor-made outfits







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Gino's son Tony, is now following 'suit' and has his own shop, AG Plado, in West Wickham, 59 High Street, previously the site of R.J. Bryant Ltd.

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You can follow Tony on Facebook https://en-gb.facebook.com/AGPLADOwestwickham/

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Girlguiding in West Wickham

We have a thriving group of girls and young women who enjoy Guiding throughout West Wickham. Meetings take place every week during school term time and are run by a dedicated team of volunteers. They lead the girls through a wide range of activities that equip them to be ready for the ever changing future that lies ahead. We are always looking for volunteers to support our girls. Could you volunteer a few hours a week or monthly to help at our meetings? Do you have a special skill that you could share with our girls e.g. IT skills; first aid; DIY skills; sign language; art or craft skills? Could you support us at District level by auditing accounts; managing waiting lists; marketing our activities; or fundraising? There are innumerable ways in which you could support our young people and help them make the very best opportunities to support their future.

Girls work towards badges and these are as varied as: geocaching, baking; recycling; human rights; dancing and upcycling.



If you are parent lucky enough to have your daughter in one of these groups I know you will be able to describe a huge range of opportunities, activities and skills that your daughter has been able to take part in and develop with her friends in Guiding.



Recently 8 of our Girl Guides joined over 100 other young women from across South London to celebrate 100 years of women in the Metropolitan Police. They went up to New Scotland Yard and took part in activities including crime solving, interviewing witnesses, finger printing, stop and search and they met dog handlers, armed response officers and senior women commissioners.

We also raise money for local and national charities. In March we held a 'silent disco' for over 70 girls and raised over £450 for Macmillan Cancer Support.



We currently have:

- 4 Brownie Units (girls aged between 7-10 years old)
- 2 Guide Units (girls aged between 10 - 14 years old)
- 1 Ranger Unit (girls aged between 14-18 years old)

We would absolutely love to re-open our Rainbow Group for 5-7 year olds and are particularly interested in hearing from anyone who may be able to help us achieve this aim in September 2019.

If you are interested in getting involved please contact me on:

brownowlcarole@gmail.com

Carole Douglas - District Commissioner (West Wickham)



F O X E S - another point of view from a member in Station Road....

Having read the article entitled "Foxes" in the Spring edition of the WWRA newsletter I feel compelled to write a few lines in response. Just Ninety years ago the area that is now covered by the WWRA was 90% fields and woodland, home to many species of animals and birds. In the intervening years we humans have reversed that. This has caused a massive decline and loss of indigenous wildlife. In the 20 years I have lived here I have seen the Frog and Toad population completely disappear. Therefore, I feel it is very sad that species that are surviving, like foxes cause such concern and are labelled as "vermin" and "pests". In my garden I get Squirrels daily, Foxes most days and even the occasional Badger. Personally, I take great delight in watching these animals feed, rest and play. I keep a small garden trowel handy to remove any deposits. I make sure that my bins are properly secured and find that late night animal noise is far more preferable to human traffic, sirens and shouts. Surely this is a small price to pay for living alongside these beautiful creatures and preferable to a sterile animal-free environment. After all they have as much right to live in West Wickham as we do!

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