Newsletter Summer 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

Newsletter Number 280 Published by the West Wickham Residents' Association.
Annual subscription : £2 per household. Membership over 8,500.

Printed by Printrite, 316 Pickhurst Lane, West Wickham, BR4 0HT
Tel:020 8464 5087
Front Cover: Where in Wickham is this? - answer on page 9

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

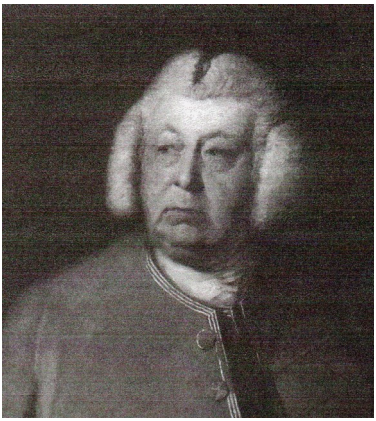
Are we there yet?

By the time you receive this Newsletter, vulnerable people and those aged over 45, should have been offered one or both Covid-19 vaccinations. Given the roll-out was ahead of schedule in late April, it is likely that residents younger than this have also been invited for a jab. This roll-out is important because, initially at least, the timetable for gradually coming out of lockdown was said to be dependent upon it. It has been good to see the opening of shops and pubs in the town although the traffic near me seems to have been at pre-Covid intensity since Christmas. Here's hoping that June 21st, Midsummer's day, brings us the freedom we desire and we can all feel safe to fully enjoy the resources and amenities of the Town. Only time will tell.

Two new people have recently joined our Committee but we still have vacancies. Please consider whether you can volunteer some of your time to serve in a worthwhile cause. We meet on one evening a month, currently via Zoom, but hopefully we will be able to meet together soon. Depending on where your interests lie, there can be some extra, but not onerous, effort required. You're welcome to attend a couple of Committee Meetings without obligation. Please contact the Secretary if you're interested.

Jane Austen in Wickham?

At the beginning of the year, we received a letter from a 95 year-old resident of Coloma Court Care Home in Layhams Road. She mentioned that she had been reading 'Jane Austen, the Banker's Sister' by E.J. Clery, where she learned that one of Jane's relatives had applied to be Rector at West Wickham, a Parish "situated in a very fertile and cheerful part of West Kent about 5 miles from Croydon." Jane, at the time, was writing Pride and Prejudice and our correspondent mused that Jane's character, Lieutenant George Wickham, had taken his name from this Parish. Peter Leigh comments that Jane's great uncle Francis married Mary Lennard and thus became Lord of the Manor. As such, the living of the parish of West Wickham was in his gift, so he gave it to his brother, Thomas, who was Rector from 1761 until 1780. The connection did not end there, Francis's second son, Sackville Austen, succeeded to the living despite the fact that it had been



Jane Austen's great Uncle Francis



Jane Austen

promised to his cousin, George. Had George become rector of West Wickham, his daughter Jane Austen, would surely have been a member of the congregation. Whether Jane gave the surname of Wickham to one of her characters as a result of her connections with the village is possible, but we have no way of proving it – unless you know different. It is interesting to note that the Jane Austen Society can find no evidence that Jane ever even visited West Wickham!

At last, a mistake to be corrected

Alfred Matthew Fullex was born in October 1885, the son of Albert Fullex and Eliza Fullex of 1 Sussex Road, West Wickham. He married in June 1914 and worked as a groom and lived at 30 Yew Tree Road, Beckenham prior to enlisting in the Middlesex Regiment. Sadly, Alfred was killed in action on the 23rd October 1916 and is buried in Foncquevillers Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Although it was pointed out at the time when it was believed nothing could be done about it, Alfred has had his name spelled incorrectly on both the Beckenham and West Wickham War Memorials for over 100 years. Following contact from a relative of Private Fullex and the resulting lobbying of the Council by Copers Cope and West Beckenham Residents' Associations along with our MP and Ward Councillors, it was agreed to install an addendum plaque with the correct spelling on both War Memorials. Both of Alfred's brothers, Albert and Arthur, served during WW1 and both survived. Hopefully it won't be too long before this change is made.



The incorrect spelling on West Wickham War Memorial



Foncquevillers Military Cemetery

Carry on regardless!

Brenda Walsh, who has been one of our Road Stewards for over 20 years, was due to take part in the Big Nordic Half Marathon to raise funds for St. Christopher's Hospice. Brenda and her husband John have both volunteered at the Hospice for over 20 years and their daughter, Christine, works for the charity. Because of the Covid regulations, the half-Marathon was cancelled but this didn't put off Brenda and some of her friends. On March 28th, they completed the challenge by walking the same distance around Lloyd Park and Shirley Park Golf Course which she was permitted to use before it was re-opened for golf. Congratulations to Brenda and her friends for so far raising £825 for the Hospice



Brenda and friend Anne during the half-marathon

Recognition for street cleaners

We can tell by the comments we get from members that the Street Cleaners we have in the Town, Chris Collins and Johnathan Miller, are much valued and respected. If you saw the Spring issue of Environment Matters, distributed by Bromley Council, you may have noticed the following item:- "It's been more than a year since the Covid-19 pandemic first started. All our frontline teams in Bromley have continued to ensure that quality services can continue to be delivered. Street cleaners have become more important than ever as they keep Bromley clean and safe. To celebrate their hard work and dedication, we invite you to nominate a local street cleaning operative who you are grateful for. Is there someone that you've noticed is extra careful to ensure that they are working in a COVID-safe way? Or does your local sweeper always say hello when you walk by? Even if you don't know their name, your area and a little description of them is enough to help us identify the right person and share your appreciation with them." If you want to nominate our Street Cleaners, then visit bromley.gov.uk/neatstreets and complete the form.

Editor

West Wickham Library is open!

Mon – 9.30am -7pm	Tues, Thurs, Fri – 9.30am – 5.30pm
Sat – 9.30am – 5pm	Wed and Sun – CLOSED

News from the High Street



At time of writing the long-awaited easing of Covid 19 Lockdown restrictions is happening and it's good to see non-essential shops with open doors and new window displays. Pubs, cafes and restaurants are still restricted to outdoor service only but it is hoped that there will be a gradual return to indoor service, although certain social distancing rules may still be necessary.

There have been a few changes in an around the High Street but first, a **correction:** Please note that the names of the owners of **Koeksister cafe** are incorrect in the Spring Newsletter. The owners are **Shanon** and **Chris** not Shanahan and Joseph.

Berry Recruitment have moved from Ravenswood Crescent to the former premises of Air Viceroy 38-40 High Street BR4 0NJ



Franco's Shoes 122 High Street is now under new management and is called **Cobblers Nest.**

Options Hair Salon at 105 the High Street, has announced they are rebranding as **Katie Rose Hairdressing.** The owner, 23 year-old Katie Lockwood, wants "to ensure our name has a personal touch to reflect the warm and friendly atmosphere at the salon. "



Katie Lockwood

We are sorry to hear that the **Santander** branch will be closing, after a long presence on the High Street

HERBS SONG
Chinese Medicine, Acupuncture and Massage.
Dr. J Song (Member of The British Acupuncture Council)
Back, Shoulder, Knee & Neck pains, Ear candle, Skin complaints,
Emotional problems, PMT, Digestion disorders, Male problems, Menopause,
Allergy test, Sinusitis, Migraine, Infertility, Warts treatment, Weight problems.
Free Consultation
125A HIGH STREET, WEST WICKHAM, KENT, BR4 0LT Tel: 020 8776 2479
www.herbssong.co.uk
Mon-Sat: 9.30 am-6.30 pm. Sun & Late eve: By arrangement
10% off your first payment with this advertisement

Bromley Brides is adding a touch of glamour to the High Street with the prospect of 'new beginnings'; much needed in these times.





General Hardware/Ironmongers/ DIY Stores

We unfortunately are losing/have lost a number of DIY stores and Building Suppliers in or around West Wickham: Travis Perkins, Wickes (Coney Hall) and Secombes Wickham Road (the latter now closed). Many residents will remember Nottles Hardware and Ironmongers, at 25 High Street which, after closure, was taken over as a similar DIY business; it also closed.

One owner of a local business sees the closure of the DIY businesses as a loss to the quality of the offering in and around the High Street. YouTube now provides 'quick manuals' on an infinite number of problems that occur in day-to-day living. However, nothing can totally replace the direct support from knowledgeable and experienced staff once employed in the DIY businesses, but who are sadly becoming redundant in our ever increasing 'throw away' society. Maybe the future will see a return to a more 'make and mend' approach to living, which will in turn contribute to less waste going into land-fills or exported to other countries throughout the world.



On the plus side we do have **Under One Roof** which has a wide range of items for use in and around the home. Although not a DIY store, **Buildbase, Station Approach West Wickham**, provides a wide range of building and landscaping materials and products for both internal and external use in the home.

Thank you to Bromley Council for the well kept and colourful flower beds on the forecourt of Station Road, opposite Boots.

TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT

Streetspace Scheme: West Wickham High Street

Transport for London (TfL), who manage the Red Route, implemented Streetspace schemes last year as part of the Covid-19 regulations. You will probably be aware of the temporary build outs adjacent to the Sainsbury's shop at the western end of the High Street, one adjacent to Barclays Bank, one adjacent to bus stop H on the southern side of the High Street and one adjacent to Café Talis. They are designed for places where the pavement narrows, and they allow pedestrians to walk in the road to maintain social distancing.

In mid-March, TfL wrote to our Ward Councillors stating that they are reviewing each scheme to determine whether it is no longer needed, needs to be amended or should be made permanent. For West Wickham, the intention is to remove the last two barriers mentioned above and to make the Sainsbury's shop and Barclays Bank installations permanent by building out the kerb.

The Association was consulted by our Councillors where we voiced our concerns and rejection of the proposals. The Councillors were like-minded and they sent the following letter to TfL:-

"Thank you for your email regarding the changes to the temporary Streetspace scheme in West Wickham Hight Street.

I am replying on behalf of the three ward councillors. We have consulted the West Wickham Residents' Association.

The view of the Association and ourselves is that all the temporary build outs should be removed. The one outside Sainsbury's has been unnecessary as footfall at this end of the High Street is such that pedestrians have had no problem in social distancing. The narrowing of the road has affected cyclists as other vehicles now have less room to pass them.

With regard to one outside Barclays Bank the view is that with the end of the lock-down restrictions and the end of customers queuing in the street, this build out is also unnecessary.

The Residents' Association also comment that they feel that any permanent changes would be a poor use of public money and we concur.

Cllr Nicholas Bennett MA JP
West Wickham Ward"



Outside Barclays Bank

TfL have acknowledged receipt of, and noted, these comments. The following is an extract from their response:-

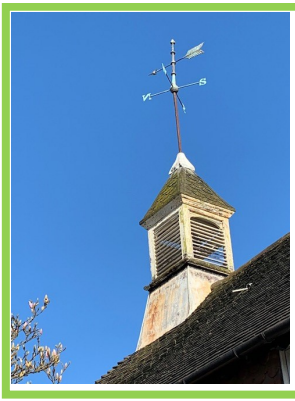
"All schemes will continue to be closely monitored as we continue to support London while lockdown measures are gradually lifted. We intend to keep our current temporary measures in West Wickham in place for the next few months, as the requirement for social distancing will be in place until June at the earliest. However, as with other schemes this will be kept under review. No decisions have yet been made on the future of the West Wickham scheme, however, should any proposals be made to make any changes permanent, this would be subject to a public consultation process."

At the time of writing, the barrier at bus stop H appears to have been removed and stacked on the pavement.

blossom

Female gardener providing maintenance for small gardens.
General tidy up, weeding, mowing, pruning & new planting.

Call Carrie for a free consultation: 07988 709737
Email: carrie.clarke@live.com www.blossomgs.com



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

This cupola and crooked weather vane can be found on the top of the lodge house on the corner of Wickham Court Road and Woodland Way. It was the entrance lodge to a big mansion called Wood Lodge which was featured in the Spring edition of the Newsletter.

Peter Leigh

M.B.A Partnership

est. 1979

General Building & Refurbishments

Roofing Maintenance or Replacement,
Gutter Replacement,
Chimney Stacks Repointed,
Fascia and Soffit Replacement,
Brick and Block Walls,
Patios, Paths, Driveways,
Fencing
Painting and Decorating.

Telephone: 020 8777 2548
Mobile: 07956 237484
07725 127252
Email: martin.abdee@gmail.com
52 Copse Avenue | West Wickham | Kent | BR4 9NR

CROFT RADIO LTD

HIGH STREET, WEST WICKHAM, KENT

Television, radio and electrical specialists since 1946.

020 8777 5925

Wide selection of LED TVs, Video
and DVD recorders.
Installed in your home at no extra charge.

We pride ourselves on the after-sales service we give
We are only on the end of the phone.

ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE

Help Our Hedgehogs!

Since 2000, hedgehog populations in England have fallen by more than 50% in rural areas and 33% in urban areas. In Bromley they are now rarely recorded. Hedgehogs live in scrubby areas, hedgerows, gardens and rough grassland. They often range 1- 2 kms every night feeding on soil invertebrates and hibernate in deep leaf litter beneath hedgerows and scrub. Please let us know if you see one! E-mail the date, place (postcode or grid reference) and number seen to Bromley Biodiversity Partnership at bromleybiodiversity@gmail.com Your information will enable targeted habitat improvements.



How You Can Help Hedgehogs: have a wild area with some scrub in your garden or park, check for hedgehogs before strimming, mowing or having bonfires, make sure there are holes in fence lines so hedgehogs can pass through, don't use pesticides, especially slug pellets, make sure ponds have one side sloping so animals that fall in can climb out. Make sure wire or nylon netting is secure or 15cms above ground. For more information see www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk

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.

Tree Pits are looking good



It is noticeable in many parts of the Town that people have been making the effort to plant up the tree pits near their house to provide a colourful addition to drab kerbsides.

Clare Unwin received positive comments from passers-by when she re-planted a tree pit in Goodhart Way after her previous efforts were strimmed by an over enthusiastic road sweeper. She has also put up a polite notice asking dog walkers to respect the display.

Travelling Songsters

In the winter 2020 edition of this newsletter I wrote about some of the migrant bird species that grace our shores in autumn and winter. Of course, when it comes to migrant birds, a larger and more diverse cast of species arrive in the spring to breed. I was given a nudge by the editor to consider an article on this aspect of our local natural history. Duly delivered.

Warbling in the woodland

The three summer migrant birds you are most likely to encounter in West Wickham are the chiffchaff, the blackcap and the whitethroat. Each of these species is likely to breed in West Wickham, and they look quite different, so are unlikely to be confused. However, you are much more likely to hear these birds in song than see them as they spend much of their time in shrubs, hedges and trees. Fortunately, their songs are equally as distinctive as their looks. Have a listen to all three species on the RSPB's website. Here's the link for a blackcap https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/bird-a-z/blackcap/. For the more advanced listeners among you, try this website https://www.xeno-canto.org/. Blackcaps travel to our shores from as far as tropical Africa and tend to arrive from mid-March. In recent years some birds have been observed to stay all year round, likely in response to climate change. Chiffchaffs are one of the earliest arrivals, possibly singing as early as February. They have a slightly shorter journey, typically migrating to us from north Africa and southern Europe. The whitethroat travels from tropical and south Africa and is the latest to arrive of these three. Typically it makes its presence known from early-April onwards. Spring Park, Threehalfpenny Wood and Shirley Heath are good places to hear/see all three. And why do birds sing at this time of year? There are many theories about this and bird song probably serves a number of purposes. However, in large part, it's about defending a resource-rich, breeding territory (a nice piece of woodland, full of insect prey, perhaps) and advertising to potential mates.



Chiffchaff



Blackcap



Whitethroat

Masters of the sky

Ornithologists group the swallow, the house martin and the sand martin in a group called 'the hirundines'. The similar looking swift belongs to a separate bird family but looks superficially the same. All four species are often grouped together for convenience. The migrating behaviour of these species is captured by the classic English proverb, 'one swallow does not a summer make'. Whilst this proverb is ultimately true; seeing swallows and swifts in the sky is a sure sign that warmer weather is on its way. These birds tend to arrive from mid-April onwards from tropical or south Africa. All four species are aerodynamic, agile and fast fliers, taking insect prey on the wing. They are the Spitfires and Hurricanes of the bird world.

In West Wickham, the swift is the mostly easily seen of the quartet. In 2020 I saw my first West Wickham swift of the year in early May, my last observation of this species was in late-July. If you want to see swifts in action, sit in any back garden on a warm spring or summer day and look skywards. The birds advertise themselves with fine, high pitched screeches as they shoot through the sky above. I frequently observe parties of up to ten birds flying in formation low over the small park at the junction of Rose Walk and Wickham Court Road, shortly before dark. I wonder if they breed in one of the buildings locally. The local RSPB group would be interested to know if you find a nesting site (https://ww2.rspb.org.uk/groups/bromley/places/476498/. The best sightings I've had of swifts are from the small hillock where St. John's Church is sited. On a warm summer day in June, if one stands at the southern edge of the cemetery, looking north towards the ridge line where Spring Park and West Wickham Common are, it is possible to observe upwards of 20 birds across the horizon.

A trip out to the horse/stable country around Nash or Addington is likely to bag you a swallow. Feeding on insects over pastures or nesting in barns. Later in the year (late-August/September) I often find swallows lining up on telegraph/power cables in this area, before departing our shores again.

I'm yet to find either house martin or sand martin in our neighbourhood. This is not to say they don't occur. Why don't you see if you can find one? For sand martin you will need to find an area of wetland. The ponds in Keston may be worth a try.

An assortment of others

In the last week of May last year, I sat in my garden in the late afternoon, minding my own business, only to be stunned by hobby passing relatively low over my roof. In 2017 I also observed a hobby a short distance from West Wickham in August. The hobby is a kestrel-sized falcon, which slightly recalls a small peregrine

in colouration and plumage. It differs in its smaller size and that it has diagnostic vivid red 'trousers' around the lower abdomen and upper legs. It's an absolute stunner of a bird. This species also travels to us from tropical and south African regions each year. This falcon specialises in taking insect prey on the wing (often dragonflies) and is the arch nemesis of the aforementioned hirundines which it also preys on.



Hobby

In late-April 2020 I observed a small upright bird, hopping amongst the grazing sheep in the Rouse Farm area. The bird had a black/grey back, a russet/white chest and a distinctive black eye-mask. It turned-out to be a male wheatear. Curiously the 'late' observation of this migrant is likely to mean it belongs to the race of this species that breeds in Greenland, spending the winter in Africa. A migration well in excess of 3,000km. The fact that I saw it in West Wickham was lucky, to say the least, as Greenland wheatears only pass through the UK temporarily, over a period of approximately three to four weeks on this long-haul journey. To my knowledge, the species doesn't breed in London (or seldomly so). It is what bird watchers refer to as a 'passage bird' or a temporary migrant.



Wheatear

It's entirely feasible one could see other migrants in our area, candidates include the cuckoo and possibly willow warbler (both on passage, neither are likely to breed alas). There are very old records of nightingales breeding in Spring Park, a sadness that they no longer occur. Last year there was even an errant record of a hoopoe not far from here at all (look it up, you'll be amazed!).

Seek and ye shall find

There is a lot more on bird migration than it's possible to capture here. Ian Newton's tome on the topic isn't a bad place to start if you are really interested (Collins New Naturalist Volume 113).

It is sadly true that many of our migrant birds aren't faring too well at all. However, with luck I've planted some seeds of curiosity which will encourage you out of your living rooms to explore our local nature. With awareness and appreciation begins conservation.

Richard Gowing

Burrell Mead **Care Home**

Residential & Respite Care

We are a local home that has been providing a high standard of care since opening in 1964. We operate as a charity focused on the needs of each individual.

- Large well maintained house and bungalow
- A range of social events
- Seasonal home cooked food with a choice of options
- Spacious garden for outdoor relaxation



For an application pack or more details please contact Eileen on 020 8776 0455

47 Beckenham Rd, West Wickham, Kent , BR4 0QS

Email: info@burrellmead.co.uk **Website: www.burrellmead.co.uk**

McColloch Roofing Ltd

McColloch roofing offer a fully comprehensive roofing service from full recovers to repairs, flat roofs, guttering and UPVC facia and cladding work. Over 10 years roofing experience and fully insured.

Tel: 020 8776 1693
Mobile: 07764 189667
Email: mccollochroofing@hotmail.com
www.mccollochroofing.co.uk







Proud member of Checkatrade.com Where reputation matters

PLANNING

The vast majority of Planning Applications for the West Wickham Ward are for one or two storey side and rear extensions and for permission to fell or trim trees which are subject to Tree Protection Orders (TPO). Under current rules, the extensions are generally allowed under permitted development rights. A few recent applications and decisions are of interest; the reference numbers can be used to access the application and current status by taking the Planning option from the bromley.gov.uk website.

Decisions

75 Station Road

This application is for the conversion of Home Comforts to a Micro-Pub and was granted permission on 21st April. **(21/00642)**

Lidl Supermarket

Lidl have been granted permission to vary their delivery hours from 08:00-18:00 to 07:00-22:00 Monday to Saturday. Sunday's delivery hours are 10:00 – 17:00**. (16/03876)**

Appeals

The following applications were refused by Bromley Council and have gone to appeal.

15 Woodland Way. Proposal for a detached, two storey, three bedroom house with associated parking and bin storage. **(20/01482)**

62 Braemar Gardens: The application proposes the demolition of an existing two storey side extension and the erection of an attached, 4 bedroom, one and two storey house with accommodation in the roof space. **(20/02263)**

9 Copse Avenue: This application proposes the demolition of the existing bungalow and construction of two, 3 bedroom semi-detached properties with cycle and bin storage, paved driveways and steps leading down to each rear garden. **(20/02367)**

The Leisure Centre/Library and Croft Avenue Car Park

The proposed development of the Leisure Centre incorporating the existing Library facilities, which was presented to the Council in May 2019 (Autumn 2019 Newsletter), was still under discussion when the Lockdowns began in

April 2020. Since then, progress on this and the Croft Avenue Car Park development proposals (Spring 2020 Newsletter), have been delayed and at the time of writing, our Ward Councillors are awaiting an update meeting with the Planning Officers. Hopefully, we will have something to report soon after.

Regeneration of Bromley High Street

You may be interested in a planning application which has been submitted and proposes the installation of an open air performance area and seating with canopy and sculptural interactive artworks. Also, a bench with drinking water fountain, and 'Time Machine', all in and around the pedestrianised area of High Street, Bromley. The application can be viewed as described in the first paragraph and by using reference number **21/00337**.

Bromley Civic Society, although endorsing the principle of an initiative of this kind, have serious concerns about what is being specifically proposed. They have written a paper defining these concerns and making recommendations for changes to the proposal. You can view the Society's concerns on their website: bromleycivicsociety.org.uk

Linda's Ironing Service

West Wickham, Hayes and surrounding areas

Are you too busy to tackle the ever-increasing pile of unironed laundry? Then, let me take the strain

£12 PER HOUR

(or £1 per 5 minutes)

Call or text Linda on 07971 646308

Email: linda_ironingservice@yahoo.com



Tony the Taxi

I'm Tony Brett, your local, friendly, reliable Taxi Driver living in West Wickham.

My Traditional Black Taxi is as Covid-safe as possible, as it is sanitised between each booking.

School Runs | Airport Trips

Hospital/Doctors Appointments

Theatre Trips | Weddings

Fixed Prices Available



Please call me on

07929 443410

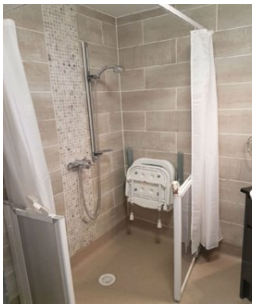
Payment Method

VISA MasterCard Maestro Pay

M E Horstead

Disabled Adaptation Specialists





Would you like to stay in your own home?

Would you like to make your loved ones life easier?

M E Horstead are a local family run Disabled Adaptations Specialist Company, we can offer a wealth of advice from our vast experience working within the elderly/disabled communities since 1995. We can provide a free no obligation quotation in writing.

Our installations consist of: Supply and Install Level Access Showers, Wet Rooms, Thermostatically Controlled Shower Units, Hand rails, Rise and Fall Kitchens, Ramps and widen doors to suit individual needs.
We can also provide Estimates for any Bathroom refurbishment.

We predominately cover Bromley, Croydon, Bexley and Lewisham.
Our Accreditations include the National Federation of Builders, SafeContractor, Constructionline and we are approved by Trust Mark.

Visit our website: www.horsteads.com or email: mehorstead@ntlworld.com
Call 020 8402 1685 or visit our Facebook page.



A look at Wickham's Past No. 20 - by Peter Leigh



Coney Hall Farm

This is now the rear of one of the oldest surviving buildings in West Wickham. It is located in Gates Green Road facing the steep incline which is Wickham Common. It is first mentioned in 1652 when it was called Coney Court in a government survey and at that time had about 130 acres, two-thirds arable and one-third pasture. It had been built by Sir Stephen Lennard, the lord of the manor, to provide an income to help pay his taxes during the Civil War. It was a timber framed house with a central chimney but during the 18th century it was faced with brick. There were a succession of tenants, although the Martin family occupied it for over a century. The tenancy included the right to take coneys (rabbits) and to fell timber on the common. There were many fine oak trees on the common, one of which was used by John Millais as the subject of his famous painting "The Proscribed Royalist". Another, close to the junction with Coney Hill was known as the Doomsday Oak although sadly it is now just an ivy clad hollow trunk. After the death of Sir Henry Lennard in 1928 and Lady Beatrice in 1931, the land was sold to Morrell Builders but the house was bought for the Rector of St John's and part of the farm buildings were used to create the Assembly Rooms. Concerned at the cost of upkeep, the Rectory moved to Coney Hill Road in 1981 and the house is now in private ownership and called The Old Rectory.

Friends of West Wickham Library

The Friends of West Wickham Library (FWWL) is a group that meets on the second Wednesday of the month in order to raise money to enable the library to purchase small items of equipment or furniture without running down their small equipment budget. The meetings are generally talks by a variety of speakers on all sorts of subjects and anyone can attend. There is a small charge for entry, slightly reduced for members of FWWL; membership is a modest annual fee, and again anyone can join.

We have been hit, obviously, by Lockdown and have not met since February last year. We hope that, once Stage 4 of the Prime Minister's Roadmap is reached, provisionally June 21st, we may be able to start our meetings again. However, there are other conditions attached which refer to 'large groups' and how numbers may be restricted. For those of you who know West Wickham Library and the space in which the FWWL meetings take place, it will be obvious that it may be difficult for us to seat as many people as we are used to. We may well not be allowed to do so if social distancing measures continue. Therefore, we will be examining all the requirements to restart our meetings, with the hope that we may be able to start again this year. However, if social distancing rules this out, we will still be waiting for the opportunity to arise when we can resume. Watch this space! We will keep you informed.

Steve Woods, Chairman, Friends of West Wickham Library.

Friends of Blake Park News

We are delighted to see the return of regular park activities as Beckenham Town Junior FC resume training and fixtures this month (April). Over the last year, as rules have permitted, the Friends have continued to hold clean-up activities, bulb planting sessions, liaised with the park maintenance team, met on Zoom, attended live and virtual training sessions (including an upcoming "invasive species" course) and we were pleased to welcome new volunteers at our recent park litter pick …a good outcome from a challenging year.



It was hugely disappointing to cancel our planned Village Day 2020 VE Day Street Party, and a further blow to not have been able to plan a Village Day 2021, but we will be back in "happy and glorious" style as we celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee at Village Day 2022 – look out for more info and do get in touch if you would like to help organise what will be a fantastic community celebration!

Sadly, last summer our container in the park was burnt out when vandals set fire to a motorbike behind it. It's taking a very long time to get it repaired/replaced, but rest assured we are continuing to work with Idverde (on behalf of Bromley Council) to get this sorted. We are on the case to get replacement noticeboards installed too. Another, much, much longer running project is also still on the go. You may have seen various plans over the years for a "Blake's Bugs" picnic and play area that the Friends have fundraised for and actively pursued for many years now. It has been a frustrating process (our children were toddlers when we embarked on the project and they are now at secondary school!) and we have had to go back to the drawing board many times following personnel and other council changes, but we are doing our best to see this through.

As restrictions ease, we do encourage you to visit Blake Park for a stroll, a picnic, a sit on a bench – whatever you like – and to enjoy this green space. We have recently published lots of useful information and links on our Facebook page for anyone interested in organising activities in the park, as well as specific fitness class and personal training permit guidance. We would love to help you spread the word if you're starting a new outdoor venture, and you can now visit our 'events' page on Facebook for a complete listing of activities taking place in Blake Park, including football, Friends clean ups and events, and – we hope – new activities too. Whether you are interested in what's on or would just like to check how busy the park may be at a given time (to avoid the crowds or to see the park full of activity!), visit our events page to find out.

We currently have a committee of 8 (our biggest ever!) and we're always happy to welcome new Friends and new committee members. Whether you'd like to help out with the Jubilee celebration, be involved more generally or have a particular area of interest, please do get in touch if you'd like to join our committee, or to just come along to a meeting to find out more. If you'd like to become a Friend of the Park, you can sign up (for free!) via our Facebook page, simply by subscribing to our newsletter. We hope you enjoy our lovely green space and the freedom of the coming months.

Facebook: @BlakeParkFriends email: friendsofblakepark@yahoo.co.uk

WOOD FLOOR SPECIALISTS

Sanding & Finishing, Renovation & Repairs
Solid Wood & Engineered Floors
Supply & Installation Service

CARPENTRY SERVICE AVAILABLE

Find us on Facebook

by searching Dream Wood Flooring or contact:

lee@woodenfloors.biz / 07985 472 705 / 0208 777 8639

www.woodenfloors.biz Recommended in which? Local

Established 1879

J & R KILLICK LTD
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Established 1879





IN THEIR CAPACITY AS FUNERAL DIRECTORS THE KILLICK FAMILY HAVE PROVIDED THE LOCAL COMMUNITY WITH PERSONAL AND EFFICIENT SERVICE FOR OVER 135 YEARS.





PRIVATE CHAPEL OF REST
24 HOUR SERVICE
CLASSIC OR MODERN CORTEGE
ADVICE GIVEN ON PRE ARRANGED FUNERAL PLANS

PLEASE ASK FOR AN INFORMATION FOLDER AND ESTIMATE
TELEPHONE PETER OR MICHAEL KILLICK ON 020 8777 4502

www.jrkillick.co.uk (FULL FEE LIST SHOWN)

112 HIGH STREET, WEST WICKHAM, KENT BR4 0ND

Despite the lockdown measures in some ways it has been business as usual for your local ward officers. The team are currently investigating two separate cases of drugs importation on the ward. The team obtained a drugs warrant which resulted in class A and class B drugs as well as cannabis cultivation equipment being seized from an address.

While out on our patrols we always see dog walkers making use of West Wickham's parks, woods and open spaces. Demand for dogs and puppies in lockdown has caused their price to dramatically increase and sadly it has led to a national increase of dog thefts. Thankfully we haven't had any thefts occur in West Wickham but please be aware and follow this guidance on dog theft:

At home

Pets are easily stolen from a garden or yard when left unattended, even if for just a few minutes. Front gardens are very vulnerable.

- Fit a bell or gate alarm to any rear or side gates; the gates should be secured with British Standard locks, locking bolts or closed shackle padlocks.
- The garden boundary should be secure to prevent your dog from escaping or a thief from reaching in and taking your dog out. Any outside kennels can also have a bell or small alarm fitted to warn you of any tampering; they should also have locks fitted.



When out and about

- Never leave your dog unattended in a car – especially on warm days – as it is not just dangerous for their health but allows them to be easily targeted by thieves.
- Leaving your dog alone outside a shop is another easy opportunity for a thief, even if you are only away for a minute.
- It's important your dog will return when called; if it is not trained to do this, be very careful of allowing them off the lead, especially in unfamiliar areas. You may wish to keep them on an extending lead instead.
- Varying the times and routes you take when walking your dog will help to prevent your dog from being targeted.

- Be careful of strangers asking you a lot of questions about your dog.
- Social media can be viewed by thieves in many instances, so be careful about what you post. Be particularly careful with details of where you live, the type of dog you have and where you walk.

If you need to use a dog walking service or kennels, make sure you check references carefully to ensure the offer is genuine or the company is trusted. The types of crime occurring has remained quite different to normal. The amount of burglaries reported has remained low although there has been several garage break ins reported recently where racing bikes have been stolen. If you store expensive items in your garage or outbuilding as well as a good lock it is worth considering a shed alarm and security lighting.



Catalytic convertor thefts from vehicles remains the biggest problem on the ward. On the 23rd March an operation targeting the organised gangs committing these offences was carried out. Officers from the Met with support from Kent Police, Essex Police, Government Agency Intelligence Network and the British Transport Police were involved in raids in East London, Kent and Essex. Officers seized thousands of pounds worth of stolen vehicles and catalytic convertors, around fifty thousand pounds in cash and a quantity of drugs. Operation Basswood will continue to investigate the criminals committing these offences.

West Wickham is generally a low crime area when compared to other wards in Bromley however please be vigilant and follow the crime prevention advice available on the Met's website. The crime figures for January and February are as follows:

Residential Burglary (includes garages/sheds/outbuildings) - 3
Theft from Motor Vehicle - 18
Theft of Motor Vehicle - 6
Robbery - 2
Criminal Damage - 2
Drugs offences - 4
Shoplifting - 17
In an emergency call 999, to report crime call 101 or visit www.met.police.uk

Contact information: Phone - 0208 721 2608 (this comes through to a mobile while we are on duty, if we are not on duty you can leave a voicemail)

Email - SNMailbox.WestWickhamSNT@met.police.uk

Twitter - @MPSWestWickham

Webpage - www.met.police.uk/a/your-area/met/bromley/west-wickham/

Crime Prevention advice - www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention

Rotary West Wickham

This article was written in April 2021 and hopefully, by the time you read it, the Covid lockdown restrictions will have been lifted, or are about to be lifted and we are entering a safe, but probably different, type of normality.

The pandemic meant that so much of what Rotary West Wickham would normally expect to do had to be changed or not held at all. We "lost" our Annual Fireworks display, WOTS ON in West Wickham 2020 and our Christmas Fair. Our Christmas Collections had to be run in a completely different format and the new "Santa Street Tours" had to be reduced in number owing to more stringent Covid precautions.

We were able to support front line NHS staff with meals, fruit, snacks and confectionery at the Princess Royal University Hospital and the Beckenham Beacon and by spending 350 hours sewing "scrubs bags" for healthcare workers.

In West Wickham itself we raised over £3,000 for St. Christopher's Hospice, Demelza Childrens' Hospice, I Care, Dementia charities and End Polio Now. We held Christmas Stalls raising almost £1,400 for three childrens' charities - Livability Nash College, CASPA and the N.S.P.C.C. None of this would have been possible without the fantastic support given by members of the public.

Our members have been donating to 3 local foodbanks in Shrublands, Bromley and Hayes. More recently we have been acting as marshals at local Covid 19 vaccination sites.

We have really adopted an "if we can, we will" attitude. If you want to find out more look on Facebook(@RCWestWickham), our website(www.bit.ly/RotaryWW) or Twitter (@RCWestWickham).

Enjoying life after work

Ask many people what retirement is all about and they might say - more time to travel, enjoy hobbies, and spend time with family. But when it actually happens and you walk away from work for the last time, it can also feel like a loss. Loss of identity, the company of colleagues and, perhaps most impactful of all, the loss of structure in your day-to-day life. Whilst that lack of routine can be liberating, it can also be very unsettling, especially in the early days.

And after a year of lockdowns and social restrictions you may be more than ready for something to open up your horizons.

Bromley's best kept secret for over 30 years

u3a is an international organisation where members form interest groups dedicated to sharing that interest on a self-help basis and u3a Bromley has been doing this successfully for over 30 years!

u3a Bromley has over 60 groups including topics as diverse as the members who enjoy them from Art Appreciation, Computers, Gardening to Theatre, Music (all types) Appreciation, Conversational French and Philosophy. And although active groups such as Golf, Rambling and Travel have been restricted, over 20 groups have been continuing successfully on-line and welcoming new members throughout.

In addition, u3a members have access to a huge range of free online talks and activity groups organised nationally for u3a members.

Whilst u3a has a very informal structure and is run by members for members, there are also opportunities to join the committee and help with membership support which fills a gap for those seeking greater involvement.

All it takes to join this low-cost organisation (£20 a year to join as many groups as you choose) is that you are no longer in full-time employment, although many members join pre-retirement to sample a few groups as part of the transition process.

To find out more visit the Membership area on:-

our website: https://u3abromley.org.uk/
or Email: membershipsecretary@u3abromley.org.uk

TO ALL ROAD STEWARDS - Holiday Cover

It looks as though 2021 holidays are on the cards again.

If you are going to be away at the beginning of September or December, let Katrina know and she will arrange for your round to be delivered.

WINNER
Investment Life & Pensions
Moneyfacts Awards 2019
Equity Release Adviser of the Year

Access
Equity Release
Award Winning Independent Advice

Investment Life & Pensions
Moneyfacts Awards 2020
FINALIST

Unlocking your property wealth

2020 was indeed a year to be remembered and goodness knows what 2021 has in store. I have been very fortunate again throughout the year in being able to help people maximise their personal situation, be it raising money for day to day living, gifting to children to help them get ahead in life or protecting the value of a clients estate for the benefit of their families.

The Equity Release market is rightly becoming more mainstream and I personally have seen more enquiries in the last year than previously. London house prices have had another positive year, gaining on average over 6% on this time last year according to Nationwide, with average property prices reaching their highest ever at £486,562.

Of course, we do not know if house price growth over the next 10 years will be as strong as it has been for the last 10 years, but property does remain a key asset for most people. It increasingly forms part of financial plans for retirement, with more and more people looking to unlock some of that wealth to enjoy during their later life.

And why not?

Interest rates are at historic lows and when you can fix in at these levels for life, coupled with the flexibility of the modern day products for releasing equity, there is a compelling reason to at least explore the options.

My role as an independent adviser is to help you explore your options. There is no charge for the initial meeting and there is no obligation to proceed, a fee will be payable upon completion, if you do decide to go ahead.

I have lived in West Wickham for many years and would be delighted to help.

An Equity Release product will reduce the value of your estate, it will not be suitable for everyone and may affect your entitlement to state benefits. To understand the features and risks please ask for a personalised illustration.

Martyn Lewis
Equity Release Advisor CeMAP, CeRER, FPC

Contact Martyn Lewis CeMAP, CeRER, FPC
Mobile - 07801 314149
Office - 0333 443 9170
Email - mlewis@accessequityrelease.com

EQUITY RELEASE COUNCIL
SAFE EQUITY RELEASE
SINCE 1991

Access Equity Release is a trading name of Your Mortgage Decsions Ltd who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority FCA No 459763

YOUR LOCAL LAWYERS IN WEST WICKHAM

Amphlett Lissimore
A QualitySolicitors Firm



- Wills & Probate
- Conveyancing
- Divorce
- Child Arrangements
- Criminal Defence
- Lease Extensions
- Motoring Offences
- Care Proceedings

CALL US NOW FOR A FREE INITIAL ASSESSMENT

Changing the way you see lawyers.

020 8776 1010 **contact@allaw.co.uk**

www.allaw.co.uk

Gainsford House, 115 Station Road, West Wickham BR4 0PX