Newsletter
Summer 2022



West Wickham
Residents' Association

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Newsletter Number 284 Published by the West Wickham Residents' Association.
Annual subscription : £2 per household. Membership 4,800 Households

Printed by Printrite, 316 Pickhurst Lane, West Wickham, BR4 0HT
Tel:020 8464 5087
Front Cover: - A scene from Glebe Way by Laura Taylor, West Wickham Photographic Society - see page 26

Advertising in WWRA magazine……

Our advertising rates for 2022 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



The Association sends Her Majesty the Queen congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of her Platinum Jubilee

Picture: Jacob King/PA Wire/PA Images

Our links with Ukraine

There has been significant activity in the Town to support the victims of the invasion of Ukraine. I've mentioned the fundraising events in the Community section later in the Newsletter, but individuals have also been very active. Lena Khomenko moved to the UK from Kyiv some twenty years ago and she has lived in West Wickham for the last 4 years. In March, she made a plea for families in the neighbourhood who would be willing to accommodate Ukrainian refugees under Homes for Ukraine scheme. Lena said, "I've recently been asked by several friends for help in finding a safe place for them in the UK. Our kids know the kids of my friends very well, hence I thought it would be ideal if they can stay close to us, so we can help them to settle into a new phase of their lives. We ourselves are taking my brother and his family, hence unfortunately won't have space for more people."

Lena is amazed and very pleased with the response from local people, the Church and local networks. It is still early days and, although she has managed to match people with hosts, they are still going through the visa process. Hopefully, at the time of the Autumn Newsletter, we will be able to report on their safe arrival and a warm welcome from the Town.

If you want to find out more about the Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme, go to www.gov.uk

You can also see what Bromley is doing via the Council website, bromley.gov.uk, and you can contact them via email at ukrainesupport@bromley.gov.uk or telephone Bromley's Ukraine support line 020 8313 4698

Editor

News from the High Street

By the time you receive the newsletter the Platinum Jubilee celebrations should be well under way. Many thanks to Bromley council for their funding support to decorate the town with bunting.

Easter Competitions

During the Easter school holidays an Easter egg hunt was organised in the High Street with many shops displaying character bunnies made by Emma's Pottery Parlour. Funds raised were donated to the Chartwell Cancer trust. Marks and Spencers in the high street kindly donated Easter Egg prizes for the Easter Art competition and adopted the Chartwell Cancer Trust as their charity of the year. The charity provides support and assistance to Oncology patients of all ages as well as the staff teams at The Princess Royal University Hospital, Farnborough, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich, King's College Hospital, Southwark, Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital and Croydon University Hospital. chartwellcancertrust.co.uk

The winning entries were displayed in West Wickham Library and are given later in the Newsletter.

If you're into dancing….

And to keep your toes tapping through the jubilee celebrations we are delighted to announce Thursday Tea Dances in Wickham Hall, Sussex Road, 2.30pm - 4.30pm. £8 per person including refreshment and a short lesson. There is a mix of Ballroom, Latin American and Sequence Dancing.

The friendly professional team running the dances are Angela, Roy, Richard and Owen and, luckily for us, they have recently moved their classes to West Wickham from Beckenham where they have run classes for many years. All ages, couples and singles are very welcome. There is no need to contact them beforehand, just come along. But if you want to have a chat first, the contact details are below.

You can contact Angela and Roy by email at rnthurgood@gmail.com or phone on 020 8650 2245.

Richard and Owen by email at richard.cole99@hotmail.co.uk or phone on 020 8776 2829

They look forward to meeting you.

Sculpture Classes in the High Street….

Through a new partnership created between West Wickham Residents' Association and Bethlem Gallery, artist Karta Kaur Thomas will deliver two workshops that will take place near West Wickham High Street. Furthermore, on the days the workshops take place we will create a trail for families to find sculptures in shopfronts. The workshops will create a vibrant atmosphere in which a wide range of people will be able to engage with cultural activity and quite possibly to engage with clay for the first time. It will allow visitors, both young and old, to have an opportunity to learn new skills as well as have fun and a greater sense of wellbeing. The activity will bring together residents, visitors to the High Street and local businesses.

Visitors will be invited to place their sculptures alongside other sculptures made by other members of the community and local businesses to create a large communal clay sculpture display. There is a growing body of evidence that suggests handling clay has a positive impact on our wellbeing from its tactile to changeable qualities. Clay has the ability for participants to be in control, in a world where the last two years have been out of our control.

The event is supported by Bromley Council and is expected to take place in July so watch our website and Facebook page for details of dates and locations.

And finally…..

Congratulations to the team at the Kitchen Range on the forthcoming launch of their cookery school. We look forward to hearing more details in due course.

We would finally like to say farewell to Impress Kitchens who resided in the old post office. We wish you well in your new business venture.

Subscriptions by Direct Debit

We announced recently that we will be implementing a Direct Debit option for the collection of annual subscriptions. Just to let you know we are in the final stages of setting up the facility with our provider GoCardless and will be ready to go live very shortly. To allow sufficient time to get a critical mass of residents on to the new system we have now decided that the Direct Debit first payment will be collected in January next year. That means that for this year we will continue to ask for cash to cover your subscription and would appreciate your co-operation in having this available when your Road Steward calls. Please remember your subscriptions enable us to continue to represent you and to pursue the "betterment of West Wickham" for only £2 per household.

Keep watching our website westwickhamresidents.com and Facebook site for a hyperlink to our GoCardless payment plan. We will also publish key facts in the form of Q&A to better inform you on how the system will operate. *Phil West*

Congratulations to the winners of the Easter Art competition



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Report of the 91st Annual General Meeting held on 8 April 2022

The meeting was attended by Committee Members, Ward Councillor Nicholas Bennett, the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team and approximately fifty residents. The AGM process has been simplified and, as the Committee structure has changed, the introduction and Chairman's report have been combined and was presented by Committee Member, Christopher Burgess.

"Good evening, ladies, gentlemen and councillors and welcome to the 91st Annual General Meeting. I am standing in for Richard Douglas who is unable to attend. My name is Christopher Burgess, I joined the Committee way back in October 2018 and this is the second AGM I am attending. I feel strongly that the West Wickham Communities should work together for the betterment of West Wickham and although I do not have a lot of spare time, I hope to contribute to WWRA endeavours.

In line with other organisations, the WWRA Committee has had to adjust – many of our long established members have moved on and we have begun to re-evaluate our priorities and capabilities as a Residents' Association, especially in the light of changed legislation and reduced powers of local councils.

Thankfully, several people joined the Committee recently, with new skillsets and the added benefit of bringing the age profile down. They will also keep our Facebook and Website up to date. Emphasis this year is on celebrations and entertainment:

Easter Egg Hunt & Art competition – in conjunction with Emma's Pottery Parlour. Proceeds to the Chartwell Trust.
Queen's Platinum Jubilee – our application for a grant from the Council was successful, and plans are underway to decorate the High Street.
Village Day, 2nd May – we will be supporting this welcome event by taking a stall.
Boundary Walk, on Rogation Sunday, 22nd May – start at KFC.
Details for the above on our social media and notice boards nearer the time. We are also considering organising social activities, such as quiz nights, again.

Regarding the Direct Debit Scheme for annual subscriptions, unfortunately implementation is still delayed. Once it is ready to use, we will post on social media and email Road Stewards.
Finally, a big thank you must go to our Road Stewards - who, throughout lockdown, continued to provide a link with our member households. We are very grateful for their continued support. Collecting subscriptions via the Direct Debit Scheme should make your life easier."

FINANCIAL REPORT (Chris Burgess)

Copies of Accounts and Balance Sheet to 31 December 2021 were provided to attendees and reflected the provisional accounts given in the Spring Newsletter. Our thanks to Nick Allen for doing the first check so promptly and also to Jeremy Byers of Keith Daniels Partnership & Co for their assistance over the last 6 years. (There were no questions, and the accounts were accepted)

Subscriptions – remain unchanged for this year at £2; the lesser amount (£1) still paid by some members is being phased out. Many members have generously increased their contribution to make up for the year where we were unable to collect.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE & OFFICERS (Katrina Iddon)

According to the Constitution, all officers have to offer themselves up for re-election at each AGM. There were no nominations from the floor for any committee position.

Richard Douglas is willing to continue as Treasurer and Katrina Iddon is willing to continue as General Secretary. We are pleased that Chris Barnes, Chris Burgess, Peter Leigh and Pauline Nurse will continue as Committee Members.

A Welcome was extended to our new Committee Members who stood up to be identified: Richard Barnes, Emma Crittenden, Charlie del Guerico, Laura Solomon, Philip West and Sharon Woodworth.

The many long-serving members who have left the Committee since the last AGM in 2019 were remembered and thanked for their contributions: Johnny Cleary, Mike East, Mary Knott, Peter Morton, Janet Pickering and Val Polydorou, our last Chairperson.

There being no questions, Chris Burgess thanked everyone for their time and declared the AGM meeting closed at 9.10pm. Following refreshments, Peter Leigh gave an illustrated talk about West Wickham in World War II. The meeting closed at 10:05pm.



Friends of West Wickham Library

"The History of Dulwich Village"

A talk by Ian Bevan

Wednesday 8th June 2022
@ 2.30pm





"Travelling in Latin America"

A talk by David Gilmore

Wednesday 13th July 2022
@ 2.30pm

It's summer!
There is no meeting in August,
enjoy the break



All talks are held at West Wickham Library

Glebe Way, West Wickham

Entry: £2 members (£3 for couples) & £3 for non-members
Meetings may be subject to alteration without notice.
Programme correct at time of printing

Jersey Tigers and Purple Hairstreaks

When I conceived of the title for our summer nature article, it reminded me of the name of a famous childhood fantasy adventure novel such as Swallows and Amazons (Arthur Ransome) or even Peter Pan (J. M. Barrie). Perhaps I'm being overly sentimental; however, these names conjure up something of the wonder and fantasy to be gained from the exploration of the natural world near to where we live. Perhaps you are yet to realise that tigers roam our summer gardens and iridescent purple jewels congregate in our treetops in West Wickham. If this is the case, please do read on. This article features merely a small number of the butterfly species you may be lucky to see, in the hope of inspiring you to embrace a local adventure. More information on how to see some others is provided at the end.

The Jersey Tiger



Jersey Tiger

Now, strictly speaking, this species is actually a moth. But let's not get caught-up in finer points of species classification. When you see a Jersey tiger (*Euplagia quadripunctaria*), you'll quickly learn why lepidopterists (the scientific name for people who study butterflies and moths) care little for the distinction between moths and butterflies. Indeed, this species quickly dispels the common myth that moths are 'boring brown things' whilst butterflies steal the limelight. The Jersey tiger is shaped like a small isosceles triangle, with black and white 'zebra' stripes on its forewings. When the tiger flaps its forewings, and when folding them to rest, its hind wings and abdomen are exposed. They are a deep, orangey/reddish colour. Stripes and striking orangey colours combined, perhaps you now see how the tiger epithet has come to pass.

The species was until recently restricted in distribution to the Channel Islands and parts of the south coast. It is thought to be commonest in south Devon, but colonies have recently appeared in Dorset and the Isle of Wight, and it has also been found in other southern counties. There is also a thriving population in parts of London, including West Wickham. The main flight period for this species is July to September. Its caterpillars feed on a range of herbaceous plants including common nettle.

Purple hairstreak

We often define a woodland by its dominant tree species and the plants that grow on the ground. For example, we may refer to an oak and bluebell wood. However, much of woodland biodiversity exists in the soils (one for another article, this topic!) and in the tree canopy. Both locations are rarely privy to the casual observer.

When it comes to the purple hairstreak (*Favonius quercus*), it is truly a penthouse species. Although widely distributed throughout southern parts of the UK, this butterfly is frequently overlooked as adults mainly inhabit the woodland canopy where they feed on honeydew, the sugar-rich sticky liquid secreted by aphids and some scale insects. The purple hairstreak is reliant on oak. On hot, still, summer days this species can be observed fluttering around the highest parts of tall trees. Adult purple hairstreaks are on the wing from late-June through to the end of August. They are small, sooty-black to dark-brown butterflies with eye-catching flashes of purple on their forewings. After breeding, the butterfly survives the autumn and winter as an egg which is laid at the base of an oak leaf bud, until it hatches into a caterpillar in late-March/early-April to commence its life cycle once again.



Purple Hairstreak

In West Wickham we are quite well served for other hairstreak species. The white-letter hairstreak (*Satyrium w-album*) is a specialist of elm. Although Dutch elm disease put paid to most of the mature elms across the UK, they were no doubt previously widespread. Have a look at the village sign at the crossroads near the Swan pub which depicts a mature elm. Despite this, a large number of young elms still persist. For example, in the hedgerows and scrub around McAndrews Recreation Ground, off Corkscrew Hill. I haven't yet had the opportunity to check, but this would be my place to start if one were interested in finding this species in our neighbourhood. I'm informed that the second week in June is the time to search and that the adult flight period isn't terribly long. Do please let me know if you find a colony! If you are interested in where the 'white letter' part of this species' name comes from, Google a photo of the butterfly and see if you can see the white 'W' on its underwing.

West Wickham is also privileged to host a colony of the English priority species, the brown hairstreak (*Thecla betulae*). This butterfly emerges as an adult in July and August. Astute observers may have noticed the large area of blackthorn coppice at the far western end of Spring Park, near the ranger buildings. This is divided into four sections with each section being cut every four years on a rotation. This ensures there is always plenty of young blackthorn for the butterflies to stick their eggs to and for the young caterpillars to feed on when they hatch in spring. During the breeding season, males of this species are reported to congregate around a favoured ash tree 'the master tree' where they court females.

Where to watch butterflies in West Wickham

A good place to start is often your garden or local park. In fact, I would imagine one could notch-up 10 or so species doing this, including red admiral, some of the white butterflies, holly blue and perhaps a peacock; the peacock butterfly that is!

For the more discerning lepidopterist, the more habitat-specialist species might be found by taking a wander through Spring Park and Threehalfpenny Wood where speckled wood, comma and, if you're really luck, silver-washed fritillary may be found. Areas of long, meadow grassland are likely to yield Essex skipper, small skipper, meadow brown and marbled white. My personal favourites for this type of habitat are in Spring Park and the meadow in Monk's Orchard/Bethlam Royal Hospital.

If you *really* want to push the boat out, visit Hutchinson's Bank (off Featherbed Lane), which is just outside our post-code area. This site is managed by London Wildlife Trust and is one of the premier butterfly sites in Greater London (www.wildlondon.org.uk/nature-reserves/hutchinsons-bank-chapel-bank-threecorner-grove). Small blue, dingy skipper, green hairstreak and many more species await you there.

There are many books on butterflies to choose from. My personal favourite is the Pocket Guide to the Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland by Richard Lewington. It's also quite affordable at under £12 and fits neatly into a small bag. There is a lot of useful information, including local places to visit for butterflies, on this website by local butterfly enthusiast Rodney Compton https://londonbutterflysurvey.org.uk/index.html

Enjoy your butterfly adventures this summer and embrace being taken back to your childhood whilst you do. It's vital for the soul.

Richard Gowing



Recent work in Spring Park

Rotary in Langley Park has recently provided 100 young hazel trees which were planted out in Spring Park, close to the London Loop path. They hope to plant more trees on West Wickham Common at a later date. These two ancient woodlands are managed by Rangers from the City of London Corporation, Natural Environment Division with the help of local volunteers and are well used by local residents and dog walkers. The aim is to preserve these as viable areas of woodland trees and plants and to allow wild-life to thrive. The work was carried out with the assistance of local residents and Rotarians from Langley Park, Beckenham and West Wickham and was completed in just over an hour giving some time for litter picking. This was followed by a walk through the woods guided by Kieran, the Ranger.



The fully grown hazels will eventually be coppiced. Recently coppiced stakes are now being used in the field near the Ranger's office to support beautifully layered hedging. This is an old craft that is being resurrected here and it is well worth a look. The adjoining field towards Addington Road (the "mad mile") is now being re-wilded and is, therefore, not close-mown regularly other than the footpaths. It has poor ground nutrients and is well suited to wilding which in turn helps pollinators. Currently volunteers have been helping to remove holly in West Wickham Common which is blocking light from reaching the woodland floor. This will allow growth of plants and encourage insects, mammals and birds. May the good work continue.



To find out more about the City of London Corporation and its open spaces please visit www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/greeenspaces To find about more about Rotary in Langley Park email enquiries@rotary-langleypark

J Stuart Talbot

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PLANNING

Leisure Centre latest

The developer had planned to build houses over the car park which the Council has deemed unacceptable. One option being considered is to move the leisure centre from its current site, but this would involve the use of Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) which is protected with a similar status to green belt land. Consequently, if this option is pursued it is likely to attract further opposition.

The Library & Housing on Croft Road Car Park **(21/04851)**

The application for refurbishment and extension of the library and the building of houses and flats on the Croft Avenue car park, was approved on April 19th at the Development Control Committee. Two of our Ward Councillors attended the meeting and raised concerns about the configuration of the two types of housing on the site. Councillor Bennett suggested that it might be better to put the houses first and the block of flats nearer the library, but the committee were convinced by the architect that this was the best layout. *(You can view the layout on the Bromley Council Planning website using the reference number above).* He also questioned the number of parking places for the residents which he believes is unrealistically low. However, the planners argued that it met the standards set for such developments.

There were 33 objections to these proposals including from this Association, particularly regarding the lack of parking provision and the adverse effect on on-street parking in the vicinity. The WWRA objections were reported to the Committee as follows:

- The parking count suggests that overall, the lost spaces could be accommodated in the remaining three council car parks in West Wickham; two of those car parks are not within reasonable walking distance of the shops served by this car park.
- Loss of car parking spaces and the provision of only 8 non-disabled parking spaces for the 26 residential units and their visitors is inadequate and will lead to further on-street parking.

If you want to know more you can view the full report of the Development Control Committee April 19th, 2022, which can be accessed via the Council website at bromley.gov.uk

Vacant Beauty Clinic (105a Station Road)

The clinic is situated at the southern end of the Croft Avenue car park. A planning application has been submitted for a change of use from Beauty Clinic (D1) to student accommodation (C2). It is proposed to add a storey to the building and provide eight student bedsit rooms with communal kitchens and living room facilities. There are several areas for concern with these proposals. Mainly, that there is no provision for ordinary or disabled parking, and, as the application for housing in the Croft Avenue car park has been permitted, there will be an even higher residential density in a small area. If you want to view the proposals, they can be found on the Council's Planning website at bromley.gov.uk under reference **22/00775**

A look at Wickham's Past - by Dr. Brian Philp

Doctor Brian Philp is an archaeologist who has excavated some of the most important Roman sites in Southeast London and Kent. Brian lived at 242 Langley Way between 1941 and 1971, his family remaining in Langley Way until 1990. He has contributed a series of articles about the origins of West Wickham and his life in Langley Way during the War and after.

Langley Way: Part III - Peace and the Aftermath.

On 8th May 1945, the end of war in Europe was declared with the surrender of the German Reich and the celebration of VE Day. On 14th August 1945, the war in the Far East was declared ended following the surrender of Japan and the following day VJ Day was celebrated as the true end of hostilities. I helped build the bonfires on Pickhurst Green for both. There was huge relief, but limited joy after six years of horror and hardship – the cost had been very high. Some 500,000 of our men and women in all services and the Merchant Navy lay dead across the World and in every Ocean. More than 150,000 British civilians, mostly women and children, had been killed from bombing by a German tyrant who had enslaved most of the rest of Europe. Almost every family mourned dead family members or friends. More than three million homes had been destroyed and many more seriously damaged. Langley Way had not been spared.

But some good had emerged. The nation had pulled together unlike at any other time. So many helped each other suffering loss or hardship. Apart from the military bravery abroad, those at home had done well. The Home Guard, the Fire Services, The Police, the Civil Defence and the many women's organizations, the Scouts and Guides and others had created a solid block of reaction and support across the country. Large numbers of women had worked long hours in the factories and in the fields and forests. All were encouraged by the voices of Vera Lyn, Gracie Fields, Gert and Daisy, Tommy Handley and ITMA and Workers Playtime, mainly on the BBC, or in person. The British Spirit had prevailed in such impossible times, including the good citizens surviving in Langley Way. The leadership had been good with Winston Churchill leading the way and good military commanders such as Montgomery, Lord Gort, General Alexander and Air Chief Marshall Dowding, all with vast experience gained during the First World War. A coalition government had been formed, a War Cabinet selected, the best entrepreneurs recruited to lead production and crisp slogans invented for this certain national crisis. A model for today perhaps?

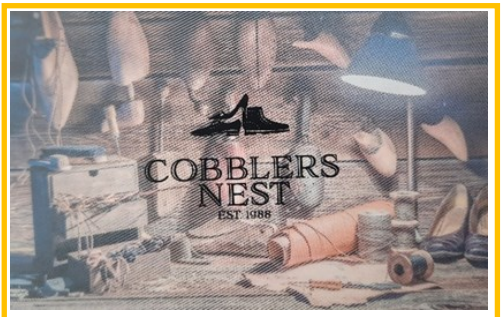
Now it was time for the troops to come Home. But there would be both good and bad news up and down Langley Way. Everyone watched their front gates. At least good news downstairs at No.237 where my uncle, Bert Saxby, suddenly appeared in his naval uniform. But not upstairs where Mrs Gibbons and daughter Hazel waited in vain for a husband and father, but the gate never opened. He had been killed in Germany in a tank battle not long before the war ended. There was bad news also in other houses in Langley Way and right across West Wickham. But better news at No. 242 when my father appeared at the gate in his RAF uniform after six years absence. I had to ask, "is that our father?" My present was a fine model ship, 'Vittoria', which he had bought in Naples at Xmas 1944 and had carefully protected for months and is now proudly in my lounge, 77 years later.

The recovery would be slow. Businesses had to be rebuilt and production moved off war munitions. Town centres and housing estates had to be rebuilt and food production maintained. But it would be a full nine years more before rationing ended. With other local lads we built more big bonfires on Pickhurst Green every November 5th culminating in a grand one for the Coronation in 1953. I had to sleep alone in a tent on guard the night before protected only with my air rifle. It rained hard on the day and the bonfire only lit when a helpful resident threw a bucket of paraffin onto it About then we created Pickhurst Rovers football team that played on the Green and did well. This evolved into the Pickhurst Youth Club with multiple activities.

The one hiccup came in the 1950's when the boys (then young men) of wartime Langley Way were called up for National Service. My father joked "it's your turn now son". Thus, I found myself also in the RAF where I was offered navigator in Bomber Command, which I declined. Instead, I joined Fighter Command watching the Russians from West Germany in the Cold War. Sadly, my friend Ken Richards from Wickham Chase accepted Coastal Command, but never came back after a patrol out in the Atlantic. Others of our comrades were in Malaya fighting in the jungle against communist terrorists and yet others in Korea fighting the Chinese. But after two years it was my turn to be walking up the path at 242 in RAF uniform with the knowledge that our preparedness had prevented a Communist attack across Western Europe. Progress in the 1960's onwards picked up and the good citizens of Langley Way slowly replaced their roofs and removed many of their front lawns to park their shiny new cars. It took over 40 years for total peace and prosperity to be seen and for new generations to move in to replace the fading residents of earlier decades.

Then suddenly, in May 2020, the newer citizens of Langley Way combined to celebrate in great style the 75th anniversary of VE Day. More than half the houses put out bunting and flags, joined in the street marathon, raised funds for a Cancer Trust and sat outside to watchfully greet each other in spite of the pandemic Covid19 virus raging. In fact, the road led the country and was widely seen on National TV. I was delighted to return and see all this and to note that the great spirit that has seen us through all those dreadful war years still existed in the very same houses that had witnessed so much damage, death and years of nightly fear. Even with fading memory I can still recall the faces of my old neighbours now long gone. Indeed, on reflection but for a few lucky yards I might have joined them and not be writing this!

Brian Philp



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"I would like to say thanks to the two guys who were absolutely brilliant and are a credit to your company.

The work they did to our bathroom has changed my wife's quality of life and I would like to thank you so much." Mr & Mrs Brushwood





TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT

Road safety in the Avenue

Following the item in the Spring Newsletter regarding the spate of accidents in the Avenue over Christmas and into the New Year, local residents and our Ward Councillors, Nicholas Bennett and Hannah Gray, met with Bromley's Head of Traffic, Angus Culverwell. It was suggested that warning signs should be used to slow vehicles coming down the Avenue because they tend to speed up once past the parked cars, resulting in a number of cars overturning near and below the junction with Goodhart Way. As there have also been minor collisions when vehicles which are turning right from Mead Way into Pickhurst Lane fail to give way to cars going ahead from The Avenue into Mead Way, it was suggested that a right-hand filter light should be installed.

At the Council meeting on 11th April, Councillor Bennett asked the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services, what proposals there are to improve the safety of road users in the Avenue following this meeting between Ward Councillors, local residents and Council officers on February 8th. The response was that it has been established that a series of collisions have taken place at the Avenue/Pickhurst Lane/the Mead junction and that officers are discussing options with Transport for London (TfL) who are responsible for signals across London. No improvements have yet been identified. With regard to the junction of the Avenue with Goodhart Way, the Council is seeking to identify funding to install a speed activated sign to encourage southbound drivers to slow as they approach this junction. It is likely this will depend on the response from TfL to future bids for funding.

Councillor Bennett commented, "It is frustrating that we are reliant on TfL in respect of any changes to the traffic lights. We have asked Peter Fortune, Greater London Authority Member for Bexley and Bromley, to add his voice to our request. With regard to the speed activated sign, we are looking at whether, if TfL do not fund it, it can be done from Bromley Council funds."

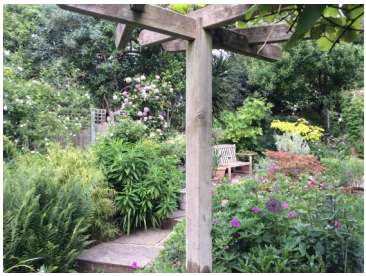
Expansion of the London Ultra-low Emission Zone (ULEZ)

It has been rumoured since March that the Mayor is likely to expand the ULEZ to the whole of London - this will obviously include West Wickham. This may have already been implemented by the time this Newsletter is published. Go to london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/mayor-sets-out-london-wide-ulez-plans to see what the Mayor was proposing. You should be able to comment when it happens, at: haveyoursay.tfl.gov

St Christopher's Hospice Open Gardens Festival



Each year, residents open their gardens to raise funds for St Christopher's Hospice but following the onset of the Covid pandemic in early 2020, this was one of many annual fundraising events which were cancelled that year. As you can imagine, this severely affected the income for St Christopher's. There was a partial recovery for this source of funding during 2021 when gardens were able to re-open, albeit with reduced admissions. St Christopher's hopes to have 9 gardens open as part of the festival this year and details can be found on their website: *stchristophers.org.uk/opengardens*



For several years, Vivien and Stan Roach have been opening their garden at 52 Goodhart Way (BR4 0ES) and last year, despite the Covid restrictions, they were able to raise £1,561. This year, they are opening from May to the end of September. The garden is not large but, as you can see, it is designed to be interesting. It is full of plants and has several seating areas.

Visits are again by arrangement, as this works better for them rather than having one big Open Day which can cause problems, especially if the weather forecast is not good! This way they can offer dates to suit visitors and themselves, both on weekdays and weekends, and they can even move the date if rain threatens. They are happy to have small numbers and couples as well as larger groups and they plan visits so that there is time and space for everyone to see the garden and then relax with a cuppa and homemade cake.



They would love to increase the donations from last year so please make a note to call or email them to make a date – and do bring your friends! They ask for donations of £4 for entry plus a small charge for the refreshments. All proceeds go the Charity, and they are happy to provide the tea and cakes themselves. Vivien and Stan Roach - 020 8776 1141 / vivien.roach@uwclub.net

Rotary West Wickham

After working with the Bromley Borough Police Cadets during our Christmas Collections, we invited the leaders, both serving police officers, to come along to one of our meetings and give us an insight into what they do. What an amazing organisation, giving young people across the borough a real sense of community purpose. We agreed that there were many potential opportunities for working together and planning on ways in which we can help has already begun.

We have also been in contact with West Wickham Christmas Lights 2022. This is a new group, organised by keen, local people who want to ensure that West Wickham continues to have Christmas Lights in the High Street and possibly other streets this year. Their plans are really exciting and we look forward to working with them. We were overwhelmed with the response of visitors to West Wickham High Street on the 5th March, when in just 3 hours we raised £805 for the people of Ukraine- THANK YOU to everyone who gave so willingly.

The West Wickham community is central to everything we do and we are working on a few activities that we hope to introduce in the summer months. There should be something to appeal to all age groups.

Contact Barry Fenton by email at fentonbarryrotary@gmail.com or phone 07514 358364 to find out more about Rotary West Wickham.

Safer Neighbourhood Team

METROPOLITAN POLICE

Members of the Safer Neighbourhood Team, PCSO Taela Pithers and PC Dean Palmer attended the AGM. Taela said that they were pleased to be invited as they wanted the chance to meet as many residents as possible. The team understands that, having had a base on the High Street for longer than any other ward, it is particularly difficult for residents when they don't see Police Officers doing their rounds. They are currently operating out of Bromley Police Station and get to West Wickham by car or 119. The team has been running 'Coffee with a Copper' surgeries in local coffee houses. The dates and times for future sessions are given below. When locations are known, they will be published on our social media.

Saturday, 25th June at 13:00
Saturday, 30th July at 13:00
Sunday, 28th August at 13:00
Thursday, 29th September at 13:00
Monday, 31st October at 13:00
Thursday, 24th November at 15:00
Thursday, 29th December at 15:00

Raising funds for Ukraine in the High Street



Thank you to everyone who supported the Cake and Craft event at St Francis Church Hall on 2nd April. We welcomed so many people to buy cakes, stay for afternoon tea and enjoy some creative springtime craft workshops. The cake and craft sales raised over £1100 for The Link to Hope Ukraine Appeal.



Every penny goes to the emergency fund. Link to Hope has trusted partners in Ukraine, Moldova and Romania, who are working hard to support the Ukraine people. They are using these funds to buy food, bedding, fuel, and other essential items so desperately needed. For more information, please visit www.linktohope.co.uk

We were also selling awareness ribbons and felt heart pins at the event: sales on the day and over the past few weeks have raised an additional £1000 already! Please help us make that even more…

Angela Walters

You can buy a handmade ribbon (£3) or handfelted heart (£4) at:

Cook, 77 High Street ***Castaways, 67 High Street***







W W PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

We are your local and friendly Camera Club so if you enjoy Photography and want to improve your skills in a sociable atmosphere, then you have various options:-

- Come along to Medhurst Hall, Sussex Road, West Wickham at 8.00pm on any Tuesday evening between September and May and meet us.

- Log on to www.wwphotosoc.org.uk to see more of our work and look at our Programme of Events for Season 2021/22.

- Email us at info@wwphotosoc.org.uk We will respond to your queries/questions.

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