# Newsletter
# WINTER 2019

# 90th Anniversary

**The 91st AGM will be held on Friday 17th April 2020 at the Medhurst Hall**

# West Wickham
## Residents' Association

**www.westwickhamresidents.com**

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| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
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West Wickham Ward Councillors

| | |
|---|---|
| Nicholas Bennett J.P. | md@kentrefurbishment.co.uk |
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Or via the Association's website at: www.westwickhamresidents.com

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Advertising in WWRA magazine……

Our advertising rates for 2019 are:-

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Please contact the Editor for more information

## WWRA 90th Anniversary

2019 represents the 90th anniversary of the foundation of the Association. There is a lot of material available regarding the establishment and activities of the association, both from its own archives and from contemporary reports in the local press. Some records were lost during the 1940's and, because of War restrictions, space in local newspapers to report on our activities was limited.

The West Wickham Residents' Association was formed following a rate-payers meeting on the 20th February 1929. The press reported that its initial aim was to "safeguard the interests of residents, protect local beauty spots and do everything possible to retain the rural amenities of the district." Annual membership subscription in 1929 was 1/- (5p), equivalent to about £3 today. The initial membership of about 300 had grown to 2,404 by 1949, to 5,160 by the 50th anniversary in 1979 and today stands at over 8,500. In November 1929, eight months after the creation of the WWRA, the Park Langley (West Wickham) Residents' Association committee was established following proposals to create a shopping zone at the Station end of Pickhurst Rise. This caused much concern for the people living in the area and the new association, which included residents from Pickhurst Rise, The Drive, The Avenue, Wickham Chase and Langley Way, was initially set up to object to this development. That association was disbanded in November 1933 and the membership merged with our association. The WWRA membership also merged with that of the Wickham Park Estate Association but, as many records are missing, it is not clear when this happened.

Looking through the available records of meetings, the Association has been involved in lobbying and taking action to achieve many improvements in the town – of course, other organisations and individuals teamed up with us on some of these activities. Some were successful and some were not. I have picked just a few to highlight here.

Preservation of trees and street tree planting scheme; the provision of a fire engine in Keston, the previous nearest fire station being in Orpington (1930's), Improvement to the number of train services serving West Wickham; the need for a direct bus service to Beckenham and the need for a swimming baths (1940's). Improved street lighting; introduction of the 194a bus route; success at the enquiry into establishing tree protection orders; Building of the library and public conveniences in Glebe Way (1956). Approval for and building of the swimming baths and establishment of the "old people's" day care centre in Sussex Road (1960's). Introduction of pavement ramps at road junctions and objecting to the development of playing fields in Corkscrew Hill (1970's). Introduction of social activities including quiz nights, barn dances, car rallies and jazz nights (1980's). Holding public meetings and working with other residents' associations to deal with the proposals to extend the Croydon tramlink along Manor Park Road and the Avenue to Bromley; Objections to the introduction of a red route along the High Street, and suggesting alternative routes which were dismissed (1990's). Organising and managing activities for the Queen's Golden (2002) and Diamond (2012) Jubilee Celebrations.

## And the backbone of the Association.....

We would not have been able to last 90 years and make a significant contribution to the "betterment of West Wickham" without the hard work of our 96 Road Stewards - Road stewards like Laurence and Primrose Smith. Laurence was born in the same year that the Association was formed, he married Primrose in 1958 and they have been Road Stewards for the last 12 years. Laurence, having turned 90 they have decided to finish their roles as road stewards at the end of this year.



Laurence moved with his parents to Langley Way in 1931. The houses were new and he can remember the gas street lighting and the cart that would spray the unmade roads with water in an effort to keep the dust down. He attended Barn Hill School which was sited at the junction of Mead Way and Pickhurst Lane. Laurence remembers the loss of many mature oak trees when Pickhurst Lane was widened in the late 1930's, the tank traps in Glebe Way and the library being housed in a shop in Station Road until the new one was built in Glebe Way in 1956. His general memories of Wickham include coal being ordered from the coal office at the station and being delivered from there; the Cinema (now Boots), about 8 garages servicing cars and selling petrol, many butchers and a café or two; Mac Fisheries in the High Street and Sainsburys on the corner of the Grove. He remembers buying a new radio from Croft Radio in 1948, to replace the one his parents had from 1927.

Laurence is a volunteer for the Corporation of London and for the last 33 years, at Battersea Dogs Home. It is a pleasure to honour the effort and commitment of people like Laurence and Primrose because the Association relies upon such volunteers to maintain face to face contact with its membership. We have over a hundred rounds and volunteer turnover means we always have vacancies. Please consider whether you could give a few hours a year to act as a Road Steward.

*Editor*

As the last subscriptions come in for this current year, we would like to extend our thanks once again to our team of dedicated Road Stewards who support the WWRA by delivering the newsletters to our members and collecting the money in return which enables us to continue to function.

Richard Douglas
Treasurer

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# News from the High Street




It is a pleasure to report that a number of new businesses have started trading in the High Street since the publication of the Autumn Newsletter.



The former Bathstore (29 High Street) has re-opened as an independent business - **Rouse Bathrooms.** **We wish the new owner every success.**



**A warm welcome** to **Franco's Shoes**, (Handcrafted Orthopaedic Shoemaker), which has moved into 122 High Street (formerly Medigem Mobility). Look out for the busy 'model cobbler' making shoes in the window!

Yet another **Welcome**, this time to **Mr Taper (Barber)** now trading in the former Elle Boutique (21 High Street)



Sadly, **Party Chic** (106 High Street), closed in August, **but is still available for orders on-line**. The premises is currently being used as a **'pop up shop'**, a first for West Wickham!

If you have ever struggled with what to do with your energetic toddler, the **Ollie Poly Play Cafe** may have the answer! **The play cafe will be opening shortly in the former DIY store (25 High Street**).

The **Fish and Chip Shop** on Glebe Way, which is under new management, is having a smart new make-over.

By the time you receive this Newsletter **Philip Reygate Auto Services Ltd**., which has been providing garage services to the local community since 1989, will have closed. However, it is good to know that the garage and staff will still be there but will be taken over by **Onodis** who currently run the sales forecourt. **We wish Philip and his family the very best for the future.**

Shops and businesses in and around **Red Lodge Road** will be relieved to have the protracted refurbishment of pavements and roads finally completed.

**And once again, make use of your shops! Hesitate before ordering that item on-line when it could very well be available locally, over the counter.**

# ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE

## Street Trees



We expect many of you will have noticed recently that when the Council remove a dead or diseased tree they no longer remove the whole tree but leave a stump about 2 feet high and in some cases even higher. We understand that this is the current policy and is due to that old chestnut 'Health and Safety' The theory is that the public will be able to see the stump easily but might not notice a hole which could result in an injury. The stumps will remain until they are replaced with a new tree but unfortunately we have no idea of the timescale for that.



If you come across a trip hazard such as the one in the photo, and there are many such pavements all over West Wickham, please do report it to *Fix my street* on the Council website. This method should also be used to report vegetation which overhangs the pavement from a property and which is often a problem for the visually impaired. This really is the best and quickest way to get a problem attended to.

## Bromley Countryside Volunteers

This dedicated team has been maintaining and enhancing the borough's countryside for the benefit of nature conservation and wildlife since 1989 and celebrates thirty years of volunteering this Autumn. The borough council is responsible for some 200 hectares of land with special scientific interest (SSSI) and five local nature reserves. It also contains the largest area of Green Belt countryside out of all the London boroughs. Besides this, the more urban areas provide a wealth of wildlife habitats, many of which are designated as Sites of Importance to Nature Conservation (SINCs). Initially the Bromley Countryside Rangers (as we were then known) worked with the Countryside Management Service of the Council on private land in the Norsted valley, Cudham and Biggin Hill areas in order to encourage owners to become more biodiversity friendly. Over the years many sites were added to the portfolio both public and private. However around 2011 the council decided to restrict this voluntary work to sites it owned or land where it had a responsibility, as is the case still, now that countryside work has been outsourced to contractors, *id*verde.

The team's efforts have been publicly recognised several times with awards over the years and in 2012 elected to rebrand itself Bromley Countryside Volunteers. Members designed their own logo which you will see displayed on their shirts and public warning signs set up on site on work days.

Countryside conservation work is very rewarding and varied. Tasks vary depending on the time of the year, weather conditions and the type of site. Common tasks include the annual grass cutting, raking and scrub clearing to



manage chalk grasslands in late summer, especially in the Cudham valley. This work encourages a wide range of wild flowers in spring and summer including primroses, orchids and vetches. On Keston Common you will find the team clearing bracken and gorse to regenerate the growth of heather on the heathland and undertaking rejuvenation tasks at the bog which is a unique habitat in Greater London. In the early months of the year the team operates in Crofton Woods coppicing hazel to encourage woodland diversity and to provide material for use in hedgelaying



which is undertaken on sites throughout the borough. Evidence of this most satisfying task can be seen at Scadbury Park, Jubilee Park and most recently in Norman Park. Other tasks can include clearing overhanging vegetation from footpaths and repairing or erecting countryside furniture such as chestnut post and rail fencing along bridleways and where there are interesting wildlife features to protect. Nature surveys are also occasionally undertaken and where appropriate native species trees such as hazel, hawthorn etc are planted often to sustain or create hedgerows.

The team, which is made up of both men and women, operates on sites throughout the south of the borough from the small Cheyne Wood in West Wickham, through to Scadbury Park Nature Reserve to the east. When out walking look out for the team's logo on signs and shirts. BCV undertake practical tasks on most Wednesdays and Thursdays throughout the year. The weather is not normally a deterrent unless conditions are potentially dangerous. It is a very enjoyable and worthwhile outdoor pastime and should you be interested I suggest you contact Ian Wright the Senior Conservation and Community Ranger at *id*verde either by email, Ian.Wright@idverde.co.uk or by telephone on 01689 862815.

Bob Fisher, spokesperson for the team.





## City of London and the Commons

I often reflect on how lucky we are to have green open spaces on our door-step. This is mainly thanks to the City of London Corporation, members of which had the fore-sight during the 19th and 20th centuries, to take over areas of Commons and Woodland for the use of the city's inhabitants.

The West Wickham, Spring Park and Coulsdon Consultative Group represent users of these green spaces and meet twice a year; in January for a formal meeting to hear what is being planned in terms of the management of the Commons; and for a less formal meeting in October usually involving a visit to a neighbouring green space.



This year the visit was to Farthing Downs, quite different to our Commons, in that it is very open, with great views of London. Animals are kept on the site – 40 cows and 30 Jacob sheep (black and white). A new electronic device, developed in Norway, is being trialled for the first time in the U.K. as a way to keep cows from wandering where they shouldn't! The rangers are quite excited about its potential; so far it appears to be working well.

On our walk we were shown the devastating effect of **Ash die-back.** Sadly all the trees affected, which is most of them, will have to be felled.

All the Commons have volunteer groups to help with various tasks under the supervision of the rangers. The **WWaSPs** (West Wickham and Spring Park) volunteers usually meet the last Friday of the months – details are on the WWRA website.



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## The Lecture Hall Charity

Many members will have attended events and meetings at the halls in Sussex Road. These are overseen and managed by the trustees of the Lecture Hall Charity. Please look at this item from the Chair of the Trustees and consider whether you can help.

"There has been a community hall for West Wickham just off the High Street since 1904. http://wickhamhall.org.uk/ A new hall was built in 1932 but the original one is still standing and re-named the Medhurst Hall. In 2007 the main hall suffered from a fire and was closed for 2 years, but after re-building all are now well used by many groups and societies serving the local community. The Halls are managed by a board of Trustees who generously give their time in order to keep them maintained to the high standard so much appreciated by the many people who use them. It is very rewarding to receive so many compliments about the halls and many of our bookings are due to recommendations from previous users. The trustees are all volunteers who meet once every 2 months to manage the halls and make additional visits when necessary. Most of our time is spent on refurbishment projects to ensure the halls operate efficiently and for the benefit for all users. We are looking for volunteers to join the trustees. If you are interested please contact Mike Simpson the Chair of the Trustees. mikesimpson141@hotmail.com"

Rotary West Wickham

We held our second Charity Presentation Evening at the beginning of the Rotary year, with the awards being focussed on youth and those in the local community needing an extra bit of help. Working with Community Links Bromley, we advertised that we had funds available which would allow us to provide grants of up to £500 to local charities and associations. The applications were reviewed by Rotary ,and in all £2,200 was donated to the Girl Guides, charities assisting children with special and complex medical needs and a counselling service providing mental health and psychological therapy which the N.H.S. is unable to support.

In September we helped Rotary in Langley Park with their 4th Annual Beer Festival with the profits going to local charity and Rotary in Beckenham who held their Swimalong at West Wickham Leisure Centre to raise funds for the R.N.L.I.

We are always ready to welcome new members, both male and female, and age is not a barrier. Our members have experience in a wide range of occupations including International Tour Manager, Doctor, Retailer, Accountant, Consultancy, Hairdresser, Gardener, Emergency Services, Banker, Quality Control, Administration, Student, Architect, Surveyor, Public Service, Caterer and Lecturer. You too have skills which you can bring to helping others in the community by joining us. Contact Christine Atkinson on 020 8650 0637 or christineatkns@aol.com for more information

# Friends of West Wickham Library

‘21st Century Revelations on the Life of Richard III’

A talk by John Halligan



Wednesday 8th January 2020 @ 2.30pm

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‘Estate Planning’

A talk by Ivan Reffell

Wednesday 12th February 2020 @ 2.30pm

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Popularity of School Stories

A talk Anna Astin



Wednesday 11th March 2020 @ 2.30pm

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*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*



# *A Very Merry Local Christmas?*

Now don't get me wrong, I enjoy a bargain and next day delivery as much as the next person But there is something about going in to a shop…especially an independent one.

Being able to see what you are buying, touch it and smell it (if necessary!) That instant satisfaction you get when you've spent your hard earned money on something for yourself or a loved one. The enjoyment you get when you unwrap your purchase or the happiness you see when you give someone a gift you knew they would love.

Now what you probably don't notice is how happy you made that independent shop keeper. How when you walked out the door, they hid round the back and did a little happy dance. (Yes, I am guilty of that!) Trust me. You made their day a little better with that purchase.

**So how about a Christmas Shopping Challenge for the community of West Wickham?**

Why not see how many of your Christmas presents you could purchase from your High Street. Right on your doorstep. Miss out on the craziness of the big shopping centres, the stress of wondering when that delivery is coming (and then having to send it back when it's wrong).

To help you in your Christmas Challenge, look out for the Christmas bauble logo in shop windows. It may offer you a little discount or offer on your Christmas shopping!



Wishing you all luck for your Christmas Shopping Challenge and a very Merry Christmas!
Suzy
A Crafty Needle &
Chair, Business Community of West Wickham

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**Rev. Ian Hamlin 020 8777 1659.**

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| Sunday 1st December | 10.30am Toy Service |
| Sunday 15th December | 10.30am Christmas Communion |
| Sunday 22nd December | 10.30am All-age Nativity Service |
| | 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight |
| Christmas Eve | 6.00pm Children's Service |
| Christmas Day | 10.30am Christmas All-age Worship |

**EMMANUEL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH The Grove.**

**Rev. Bryn Thomas 020 8462 4860**

| | |
|---|---|
| Sunday 1st December | 6.30pm Advent Praise with Choir |
| Sunday 8th December | 10.30am Festival Parade service with Toys/Messy Church |
| Saturday 21st December | 4.00pm Carols on the Green |
| Sunday 22nd December | 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight |
| Christmas Eve | 4.00pm Crib Service |
| | 11.30pm Christmas Eve Communion service |
| Christmas Day | 10.30am Christmas Family service |

**ST FRANCIS Ravenswood Ave. and ST MARY OF NAZARETH The Avenue**

**Rev. Hazel O'Sullivan 8777-5034**

| | |
|---|---|
| Friday 13th December | 3.45pm Christmas Messy Church at St Mary's |
| Saturday 14th December | 10.30am-3.30pm Advent Quiet Day at St Francis |
| Sunday 15th December | 10.45am All-age Toy Service & Nativity at St Francis |
| Sunday 22nd December | 4.00pm Family Carol service at St Mary's |
| | 6.00pm Carol service at St Francis |
| Christmas Eve | 3.00pm & 4.30pm Christingle services at St Mary's |
| | 6.00pm Lighting the Lamps at St Francis |
| | 11.15pm Midnight Communion at both churches |
| Christmas Day | 8.00am Holy Communion at St. Mary's |
| | 10.00am Family Communion at St Francis. |

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST Layhams Road**

**Rev Jon Ward 020 8462 8622**

| | |
|---|---|
| Saturday 14th December | 10.30am Messy Christmas-for all ages |
| Sunday 15th December | 7.00pm Carols by Candlelight |
| Christmas Eve | 3pm & 5pm Christingle services |
| | 11.15pm Midnight Communion |
| Christmas Day | 8.00am Holy Communion |
| | 10.00am All Together Christmas worship |

**ST MARK'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH High Street**

**Rev. Raymund Brennan 020 8777 6086**

| | |
|---|---|
| Christmas Eve | 6.30pm Vigil Mass |
| | 8.30pm Carols |
| | 9.00pm. Sung Mass |
| Christmas Day | 10.00am Mass with Children's Liturgy |
| | 11.30am Mass with Carols |

**WEST WICKHAM METHODIST CHURCH Hawes Lane**

**Rev. Laura MacBean 020 8249 8592**

| | |
|---|---|
| Saturday 21st December | 3.00pm Mencap Carol Service with Love-2-Sing Youth Choir. |
| Sunday 22nd December | 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight |
| Christmas Eve | 4.00pm Crib service. |
| Christmas Day | 10.00am Christmas Day All-age service. |

**WEST WICKHAM & SHIRLEY BAPTIST CHURCH Wickham Road, Shirley**

**Rev Jon Hills 07429 378 976**

| | |
|---|---|
| Sunday 15th December | 10.30am Family Nativity Service with fun for all ages. |
| Sunday 22nd December | 10.30am Christmas Communion |
| | 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight |
| Christmas Eve | 4.30pm Glow-stick Christingle |
| Christmas Day | 10.00am Christmas Day celebration service |




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# PLANNING

## Hand car wash operation in the High Street car park

In June this year, a planning application was submitted to Bromley Council proposing a car hand washing operation in the car park on the south side of the High Street - if you're a long term member, you probably still call it "the Woolworth's car park." The application proposed the siting of a large container covering 3 parking bays and the removal of the use of a further 9 parking bays.

We, along with local residents and business owners, objected strongly to this application on the grounds that there is already restricted on and off-street parking available for residents in West Wickham and permitting this application would further reduce parking facilities in what is an already well used and often full car park. We also objected on environmental grounds as, from the application, there appeared to be no thought or provision made for the run-off of dirty and detergent laden water, either into the car park itself or to the rear gardens of the residential properties which back on to the proposed site.

The planning department has ruled that the proposed use/development is not lawful. Details can be found on the Councils website under planning, reference:- 19/02370/PLUD

## New Doctors surgery in Red Lodge Road

In May this year, an application was submitted for change of use of 11 Red Lodge Road (Goodman Furnishings), from retail to a Doctor's Surgery at ground floor level. The application was permitted in September but it is not yet clear when the surgery will become operational. Details can be found on the Councils website under planning, reference:- 19/022244/FULL1

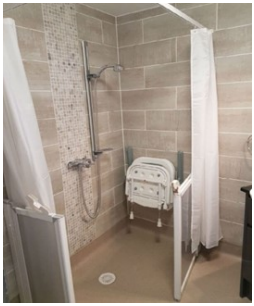
## Public consultation on the proposals for the new Leisure Centre

The long awaited public consultation regarding proposals for the new Leisure Centre and Public Library on the existing Leisure Centre site, has been delayed. Apparently there are issues surrounding the financial viability of the current plan and so it is being re-examined. It is therefore doubtful whether there will be anything definite before the New Year as any new proposal will have to go through various committees. As soon as there are any further developments, they will be reported on the Association's Website and Facebook page.

M E Horstead

Disabled Adaptation Specialists





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# Would you like to make your loved ones life easier?

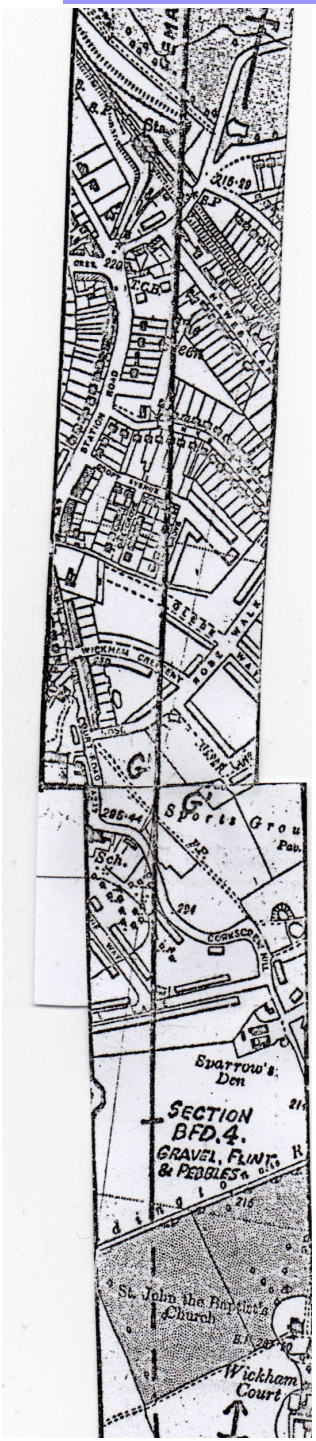
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## The Roman Road

West Wickham stands astride the Roman road that ran from London to Lewes, then an important port. From the North it crossed the Langley Estate close to Langley Park Girls School, through West Wickham station, under the Railway Hotel, crossing Glebe Way close to Lidl, crossing the top of Corkscrew Hill, through the junction with Stambourne Way and Wood Lodge Lane across Sparrows Den and the fields to the west of St John's church. It was there that a small roman town was built, "Noviomagus", probably where another Roman road turned off to Gravesend. The name 'Wickham' is thought to be from the Roman word 'vicus' meaning town and the Anglo Saxon word 'ham' for settlement indicating that the area was a staging post for travellers. This was sited on chalky ground and it may have been difficult to get a good water supply in the summer months. The Wickham Bourne which, even now sometimes flows along the Addington valley fed by springs in Spring Park Woods, was probably only a winter chalk stream before the wells and pumping station at Kentgate substantially reduced the water table level, whereas The Beck at the end of the High Street flows all year round. Roman remains found in Bolderwood Way suggest that even then a settlement was growing up to the west of 'Wickham'.

The Domesday survey of 1086 records the presence of 24 taxable holdings which were probably small farm holdings. In addition to the 24 farmers and their families, the lord of the manor had 13 serfs and there was a church and a mill valued at 20 pence. This would have been a water mill possibly located at the bottom of the High Street where the White Hart (now KFC drive-through) had a pond.

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# TRANSPORT

## Red Lodge Road/Station Road Junction

The works to improve this junction which began in February this year, are largely completed. The scheme had 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 aims also included lowering the kerbs by the width restriction to make it easier for pedestrians particularly those pushing prams or wheel chair users. At the time of writing, some of the dropped kerbs are yet to be installed and the Council assure us that this is in hand.



You will have noticed the new road markings, particularly the cycle lanes and those for traffic turning right at the lights. Now traffic turning right from Station Road and Beckenham Road into Red Lodge Road and Ravenswood Crescent respectively, is directed by the arrows to pass offside to offside. Previously, there was never a consistent method used by drivers making this particular manoeuvre. The directions for traffic turning right from Red Lodge Road and Ravenswood Crescent into Beckenham Road and Station Road respectively, has remained the same, that is, turning nearside to nearside. Both manoeuvres comply with Rule 181 of the Highway Code.

Reaction to the new junction has been mixed. From observations by committee members and residents, when drivers turning right are complying with the new direction arrows, the new layout works fairly well and traffic flow is good. However, some drivers are confused by the square and arrow markings and this leads to misunderstandings and congestion at the crossing. .



The arrangements for cyclists using the crossing are also new with dedicated traffic lights and dotted cycleways marked across the junction from Station Road to Beckenham road and vice versa. The crossing period for cyclists coincides with the pedestrian crossing stage and operates following any of the demand buttons being pressed. Several reports from drivers, cyclists and pedestrians indicate that there is confusion regarding the phasing of the cycle lights. Some reports say that they have seen cyclists apparently being shown a green light when vehicles are crossing in front of them, also on a green light.

TfL are the signal authority for London and so we have talked to them about this apparent and dangerous anomaly but without success. They say that a full safety audit has been carried out at the junction and this is not due to be reviewed for three months. We will continue to monitor the situation and reports and make members concerns known to the appropriate authority.

## Bakerloo Line Extension

TfL are proposing to extend the Bakerloo line beyond Elephant & Castle to Lewisham, serving Old Kent Road and New Cross Gate. They are also considering a second phase of the extension beyond Lewisham to Hayes and Beckenham Junction, involving a conversion, to London Underground operation, of the National Rail line via Catford to Hayes. The proposals are part of the commitment by the Mayor, Sadiq Khan and TfL to improve public transport for all Londoners and to help London grow by supporting new homes and jobs. They hope that work on phase one will commence in 2023 and be completed by 2030. The phase which includes the extension to Beckenham Junction and Hayes, would begin after this date. This seems a long way off for most of us but it is a proposal that, if realised, would affect the lives of many future residents of the town, possibly including our children and grandchildren.

This was last considered in 2016 at which time Hayes was only one of five possible extension routes. Nevertheless, concern was expressed at the loss of a direct service to the City and that journey times would be a lot longer. Under these proposals, there would be no direct connection to Victoria, London Bridge or Cannon Street. Interchanges would be at Lewisham for the DLR, Elephant and Castle for the Northern Line and Thameslink services, and at Waterloo.

The Council has confirmed that it supports the extension to Lewisham but sees no benefit in its extension to Hayes. They might also consider the extension of the London Overground from New Cross to Bromley North but any potential extension of the DLR to Bromley, appears to be a non-starter.

Budget priorities like the tram link extension to Sutton, Crossrail 2, etc. mean that this proposal is unlikely to get the go-ahead any time soon. However, the proposal is published and must be taken seriously. Details of the full proposals can be found at:-

https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/tube/bakerloo-extension/?cid=bakerloo-extension

A Public Consultation is underway and members who are rail users should take the opportunity to consider the proposals and comment where necessary. The consultation is due to conclude on the 22nd December 2019.

**The Swan Traffic Lights**

A local resident has brought our attention to occasions when traffic blocks the pedestrian crossing between Alan de Maid and the Swan because a queue has formed behind a bus at the bus stop. Accordingly we contacted TfL to ask them to consider a part yellow box junction on the westbound carriageway. They have replied that a yellow box junction might exacerbate the problem by causing traffic to block the pedestrian crossing at the entrance to the box, i.e. between the Education Centre and the Library. They point out that it is not permitted to extend the box to include the pedestrian crossings. We are therefore sorry that it appears that residents are just going to have to chance their arm and thread their way through the cars in order to get to the other side.

**Donations**

In the last few years we have contributed to the Council's Street tree planting schemes. However, last year's programme of street tree planting has been severely delayed and is unlikely to be completed until next year. Consequently, we have decided not to consider donating towards street trees until we are satisfied that the programme is back on track. We have agreed to support three projects:

£330 part insurance for the West Wickham Christmas Lights and part towards the lights themselves.

£1,000 to CASPA (Children on the Autistic Spectrum Parents Association), a small local charity which provides advice, support and life skill development opportunities for children, young people and families affected by Autism . It will provide equipment for the toddler group at their Hawes Down Centre and to fund activities during school holidays.

£1,000 to the Friends of Blake Park to support the provision of an adventure area with low-level climbing equipment, dedicated wildlife noticeboard, signposts, picnic tables and seating.

**St Francis of Assisi Church, West Wickham**

Ravenswood Avenue BR4 0PW





# BIG

# CHRISTMAS SING

## Saturday 7th December 2019

## at 4 pm - *Everyone welcome*

**Raising funds for**

## CHRISTIAN AID

**"With one voice against POVERTY"**

**Christmas Tree**

As usual the Association has contributed to West Wickham's festive illuminations by erecting a 10ft high tree on the top of the old toilet block next to the library, complete with 600 lights and a star. This year we have chosen a local source for our tree, **Magic of Foresters** in Barnet Wood Road, Hayes, www.magicofforesters.com a family run business who have been growing Christmas trees for over 40 years. They also have Organic and Fair-Trade Christmas Trees for sale, which are not only chemical free but also edible and better for the well-being of everyone in the home.To make buying your Christmas tree special, why not book for the children to visit Santa's Grotto in the woods while you enjoy a hot drink and home-made food in Sue's Kitchen.

Please do not forget to recycle your Christmas tree responsibly. If you cannot cut it up to fit in your garden waste bin, check www.bromley.gov.uk/wastenews for details of the times and extra sites in addition to those at Waldo Road, Bromley and Churchfields Road, Beckenham. It is advisable not to leave it at other places such as Monks Orchard Road or, like one of our committee members last Christmas, you may find yourself on CCTV and having to pay a £100 fine.

**A date for your diary.....**

**The 91st Annual General Meeting of the Residents' Association**

**will be held on Friday, 17th April 2020 at the Medhurst Hall, Sussex Road, West Wickham.**

**Further details including times and the agenda will be published on our website, FaceBook page and this Newsletter, nearer the date**


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Lifeboats

Can you give your time to help the search and rescue charity – the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)? The Bromley, West Wickham and Hayes Fundraising Branch need your help.

The RNLI relies entirely on voluntary donations to provide their essential search and rescue service around the entire coast of the UK and the Republic of Ireland, as well as on the River Thames. Did you know that Tower Lifeboat Station in London is only 12 miles away, and 7 minutes walk from Charing Cross Station? Tower is the busiest lifeboat station in the UK covering 16 miles of the river Thames with a full crew on the station 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. 303 lives have been saved since the Lifeboat Station opened in 2002.

Your local fundraising branch makes collections in many places in the area including supermarkets and garden centres, organises events such as the successful Rock Choir Concert in 2018 and we would like to do much more. We do need more volunteers to help us maintain our fundraising now and in the future. Lifeboat Day is an annual event and we collect all over the Branch area and we really need your help with a bucket collection on that day or at one of our events. You can volunteer for as much time that you can give - a couple of hours for a collection each year or on call to help with one of our events or both.

To volunteer – please contact the Branch Secretary, Lynda Jones. You can email lyndajones@btconnect.com or call her on 07855 437767. Lynda is looking forward to hearing from you.

**The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea**

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

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- Youth & kids activities
- Refreshments

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hopechurchuk.org 01689 604295


## STOP PRESS.....

We have heard that a report is being presented to the Council's Renewal, Recreation and Housing Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday November 5th recommending that a feasibility study be undertaken with regard to closing the Station Road car park and building houses on it. One of the options is also to bring forward the development of the library site and re-site the library in interim accommodation, probably in a shop premises on the High Street. Many resident's will find this contentious. We will be looking into this and reporting developments on our website, Facebook and this newsletter.

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# GO PINK



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