

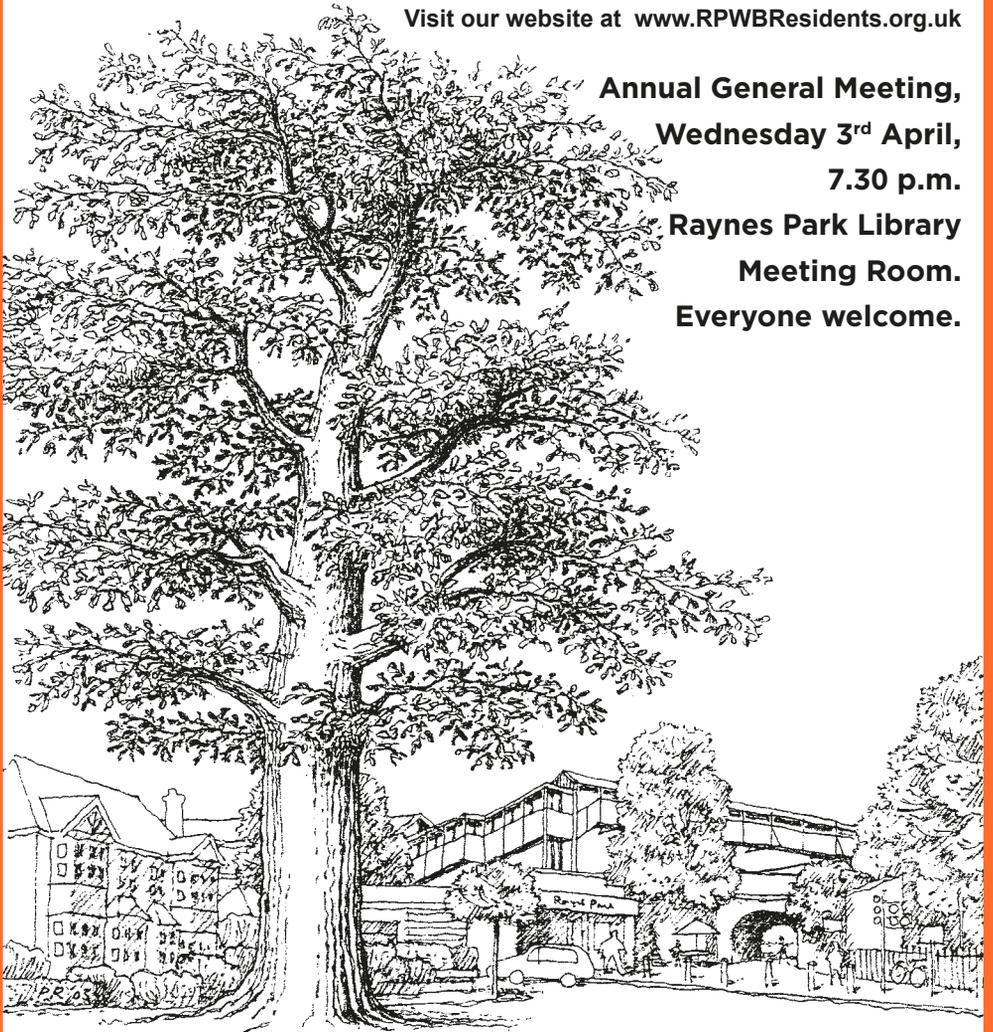
THE GUIDE

March 2019

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**Annual General Meeting,
Wednesday 3rd April,
7.30 p.m.
Raynes Park Library
Meeting Room.
Everyone welcome.**



Raynes Park & West Barnes Residents' Association



@rpwbra

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West Barnes Singers Hon. Sec.: PENELOPE PRENDERGAST, 35 Netley Gdns, SM4 6JW. (8648 3987)

Pisces Membership Co-ordinator: HARRY GREEN, 6 Thomas House, 20 Grange Road,
Sutton SM2 6RS. (020 8661 0205)

Raynes Park Bowling Club Hon. Sec.: J. GUINNARD, (07769 185297) email: jguinnard@hotmail.com

Merton Bowling Club Hon. Sec.: TINA SMITH, (07525 001496) email: tinasmith181@live.co.uk

Friends of Cannon Hill Common: CAROLYN HEATHCOTE, 166 Cherrywood Lane,
Morden, SM4 4HQ (8395 6416)

Friends of Sir Joseph Hood

Memorial Playing Field: CAROLINE VENTOM, 89 Marina Ave, New Malden, KT3 6NG.(8942 5605)

Pavilion Social Club Chairman: JILL TRUMAN, 8879 3525

Acting Secretary: JILL WEST, 8286 9809

Motspur Park Horticultural Society: DIANNE WALKER, 27 Marina Ave, Motspur Park, KT3 6NE.
email: djohn2755@hotmail.com or motspurparkhorticulturalsoc@gmail.com

Paddock Horticultural Society: email: secretary@paddock-allotments.co.uk

Readers are reminded that the views in this magazine expressed by correspondents are not necessarily those of the Association.

Published by Raynes Park & West Barnes Residents' Association. Printed by Tremar Graphics.

NOTICE OF MEETING

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the

Raynes Park & West Barnes Residents' Association

will be held at **The Raynes Park Library Meeting Rooms**
(via side entrance)

on **WEDNESDAY 3rd APRIL 2019 at 7.30p.m.**

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for Absence
- 2. Chairman's Report on the Work of the Association during 2018/19
- 3. Treasurer's Report
- 4. Election of Officers and Committee
- 5. **Speaker: to be announced**

Break for Refreshments

- 6. Updates on current Planning Matters
- 7. Residents' Forum and Any Other Business

Please bring a copy of 'The Guide' with you to verify membership



NOMINATION FORM

(The Association invites anyone who wishes to join the Committee to complete and / or nominate suitable candidates for consideration and submit this form to the Secretary by 27th March 2019)

We wish to nominate
As a Member of the Executive Committee.

Nominated by: *(Please print name and address)*.....
.....

Seconded by: *(Please print name and address)*
.....

Nominations to reach Clare Townsend, 128 Grand Drive, SW20 (claretownsend@virginmedia.com)
no later than Wednesday 27th March 2019

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the
**RAYNES PARK AND WEST
BARNES RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATION**
held on
WEDNESDAY 11TH APRIL 2018
at **RAYNES PARK LIBRARY**

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman welcomed members and residents to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Avril and Jerry Cuthbert.

MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM HELD ON 5TH APRIL 2017

These were published in the April 2017 issue of the guide and were approved by those present.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

John Elvidge spoke of his pride in the work and achievements of the Association since its inception in 1928. He reminded those present that the RPWBRA had been formed 90 years ago mainly because of local concerns regarding flooding but also to engender community activities and awareness. He felt that the original reasons for its existence were as relevant as ever

and he thanked all those who helped to keep the association running.

He announced that a special 90th anniversary dinner at "Taste" (Merton College) would be held in November and that full details would be published once details had been confirmed.

The Chairman recognized the dedicated, conscientious band of road stewards and area coordinators who, once again, had given freely of their time and energy throughout the year to ensure that residents received the association's monthly Guide. He hoped that they would join him and the rest of the committee for a summer celebration on Saturday 7th July.

Before highlighting other areas of endeavour the Chairman singled out the joint secretary and editor Jill Truman for special praise. Amazingly, Jill has worked as a volunteer for the association for 50 years! During this time, she has held every office apart from that of treasurer. Prior to the AGM Jill had been very ill in hospital, yet she insisted upon participating in the meeting and assured members she would be busy during the coming months researching and collating a special 90th anniversary edition of the Guide.

The Chairman then extended his gratitude to the other members of the committee. He thanked John Townsend for his exemplary work as treasurer and was particularly appreciative of the clarity with which

he regularly summarised a multitude of complicated financial transactions. He also expressed his appreciation for the audit support provided by Brian Lewis-Lavender.

The Chairman also thanked both Dick Coleman for the huge enthusiasm he has brought to the role of Advertising Manager and Andrew Barwick for his ever-efficient work as Distribution Manager for the Guide. Excellent support for Andrew's task was also provided by Dick, by George Holder (postal members), by Charles Briscoe-Smith (web-master) and by our newly appointed membership secretary Rosemary Wright.

John Elvidge then drew attention to Jerry Cuthbert's tireless work as Chairman of the Pavilion sub-committee and thanked him for overseeing its development. He appreciated the involvement of David Freeman and he felt that the Thursday Social Club run by Jill and Andrea Hannon was a great resource for local people.

The Chairman noted the huge amount of work done by Jerry and David respectively regarding information about environmental matters such as Crossrail2, Heathrow expansion and local planning issues.

There was appreciation of the work done by the local Councillors, Gilli and Brian Lewis-Lavender and Mary-Jane Jeanes.

Mary-Jane had informed us she was standing down and was presented with a beautiful garden plant in recognition of her work.

The chairman also thanked Margaret Barratt for her painstaking organisation of the annual RPWBRA horticultural outing to Wisley.

Please note unfortunately, Margaret could not attend the AGM so the Treasurer visited her the next day with the bouquet she should have received at the AGM. She was very grateful for the gift and sent a letter of appreciation.

Amongst the events which had taken place since the previous AGM were:

- (i) a beautiful outdoor social occasion during which a flowering cherry tree was dedicated to the late, much missed Jan Bailey, which was much appreciated by her partner Gordon Stratford, plus family and friends
- (ii) an excellent guided visit "behind the scenes" to the All England Lawn Tennis Association Club attended by over 30 road stewards and committee members
- (iii) a lively Christmas party at the pavilion enjoyed by over thirty volunteers and friends
- (iv) an enjoyable open meeting at Blossom House where those who attended were most impressed by a fascinating talk from Joey

Burgess, the Principal of the establishment

- (v) a well-organised trip to Wisley (mentioned earlier) plus various well-attended outings organised by Andrea and Jill.

TREASURER'S REPORT

John Townsend gave a clear, comprehensive report of the Association's finances.

He emphasised that they were in a healthy state thanks to Dick Coleman's success in managing to increase revenue, Andrew Barwick's volunteer teams ensuring steady membership levels plus a regular income garnered by Jerry Cuthbert and the Pavilion Management Group.

He thanked Brian for auditing the accounts.

The treasurer then spoke of the excellent response to Tom Deveson's article regarding the retirement of local milkman John Braden. Over £600 had been received from residents. Clare had arranged the accompanying cards and letters into an attractive booklet to be presented with the money.

Please note: the publicity-shy milkman did not attend the meeting so John Townsend took the booklet and money to John Braden's home where, as you might imagine, the gifts were received with much gratitude!

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

John Elvidge vacated the Chair which was taken by Jill Truman.

There were no new nominations and in response to Jill's proposal, seconded by Gilli, John Elvidge agreed to continue as Chairman for the coming year.

The remaining members of the committee were then re-elected by general approval.

The Chairman thanked members for his re-election and urged any residents who wished to become involved in the general organisation to put themselves forward for consideration as committee members.

INVITED SPEAKER – RUTH WHITEHEAD

The Chairman was pleased to introduce the Secretary of the Paddock Allotments to the meeting.

Ruth described the allotments as a "true local success story" and was intrigued to learn more about its development from a run-down underused council facility to its present vibrant existence.

Ruth thanked the association members for inviting her to the meeting and then proceeded to give a fascinating account of the Paddock's history and current situation.

Pre-dating the formation of the RPWBRA by two years, the lands covering five and a half acres were originally earmarked for allotment use in 1926. Then in 1946 the Paddock Horticultural Society was formed to enable Cannon Hill residents to buy and sell stock.

Gradually the brief widened to include neighbouring areas and a strong community and social spirit emerged centred around the allotments.

Merton Council eventually asked members if they wished to take over the management, encouraging them to do so by improving basic aspects such as the water supply and fencing and providing a simple hut.

By 1991 the paddock members had established the beginnings of today's thriving set-up. Whilst still answerable to the council, the Paddock Committee oversees tenancy, security and maintenance and has overseen amazing improvements to the site.

It is a truly community facility – anyone can become a garden member for only £4 per annum, enabling them to participate in social activities and to use the shop – and those wishing to have their own plots can apply to Ruth for cost details as there is a waiting list.

Ruth was particularly proud to emphasise the multi-cultural nature of the plots, adding that anything could be grown if it was legal!

Ruth outlined the range of social activities: Sunday breakfasts provided at a reasonable price by four teams of volunteers, a weekly hobby club run by Cynthia Hatcher, quiz nights, seasonal events such as the Christmas dinner and Summer BBQ, “yellow book” open days and the unmissable annual Horticultural Show.

Yvonne Sharp also organises short holidays at reasonable cost and there are several popular day trips throughout the year.

Ruth pointed out that the whole enterprise was made possible by an amazing team of volunteers who open-up and lock the facilities, clean, cook, stock and run the shop and generally commit to the shared feeling of mutual endeavour.

The Paddock Committee members listen to plot-holders and garden members, meeting regularly to review matters and plan improvements thus ensuring that all runs smoothly.

Following her talk, Ruth was applauded by those present and presented with - what else? - a beautiful bouquet of her favourite flowers!

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Although there was no single overriding issue, there was discussion and concern about impending waste management changes, the loss of local post office and banking facilities and

the never-ending traffic and parking concerns.

Garry and Wendy Hunt spoke from personal experience about the need for vigilance regarding postal and identity theft and this concern was echoed by many present.

The meeting finished at 9.50pm. The Chairman thanked Clare and John for arranging the refreshments and was grateful to everyone for their contributions to an informative and friendly meeting.

Clare Townsend



Margaret Sinclair
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RAYNES PARK WARD

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adam.bush@merton.gov.uk

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**Liberal Councillors may be
contacted through their Civic
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CANNON HILL WARD

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020 8542 4768
nick.mclean@merton.gov.uk

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

NEW CONCERT HALL IN WIMBLEDON?

The Times reports that a new 1,250 seat concert hall is being proposed for the car park behind Morrisons supermarket in central Wimbledon. Early designs have been prepared by the world famous architect, Frank Gehry, who designed the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao and the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles.

To go ahead, the project requires a massive £100 million, made up of £65 million for the building with the balance needed to provide an endowment for running costs. This would have to come from private funding. This is now being sought.

While Merton Council owns the land, it would not provide any public funding, but might lease the site on a long term basis.

The Council is currently consulting on a plan for the future of the area. It has been earmarked for many years as a site for a replacement for the Civic Hall, which was demolished in 1987 to make way for the Centre Court shopping centre.

NOTICES TO PREVENT TRESPASSING ON LOCAL PARKS

The Council has obtained orders in the High Court to prevent trespassing on parkland, including Cannon Hill Common. These are addressed, as they must, to Persons Unknown, but contain a power of arrest. The hope is that these further powers will prevent the incursions that have taken place in recent years and make removal quicker

and easier if they do occur.

The Home Secretary is also proposing further measures, which would make the setting up of unauthorised camps a criminal offence, given the difficulty of enforcing aggravated trespass notices. These would give police new powers of eviction.

WARNING NOTICES ABOUT THE RISK OF POISONING TO ANIMALS

There is also a notice on Cannon Hill Common asking people not to leave out pieces of chicken. These will decay and can cause poisoning to dogs, and other animals. We understand that these notices were made necessary since some cases of poisoning did occur.

RUBBISH COLLECTION

The Council's Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel will be meeting at the end of February to discuss waste, recycling, and street cleaning under the new contract. We have put forward some suggestions for improvements to the present system.

One of the major problems, in my view, is that the recycling boxes for plastic and bottles are collected only every fortnight, and often have lots of small items in them. They have no lids and tend to be left out overnight. The result is that whenever it is windy, the streets and gardens around are full of blown rubbish. Also, on a very windy day, the boxes themselves can be blown into the street.

PAUL ELECTRICAL

Paul Electrical has been a fixture among the shops in Grand Drive for the past 60

years. Very sadly, it has now closed.

The shop contained a vast array of electrical goods and supplies of all kinds, at prices which more than matched those of the High Street retailers. But we have lost the expertise of the staff, their friendliness, and their willingness to give expert and unbiased advice; you could buy the product one day, have it delivered and fitted within a day, and have the old item taken away, all without fuss.

It's a great shame that in this internet age, this kind of personal service is disappearing.

John Elvidge



Raynes Park Residents' Association

PAVILION SOCIAL CLUB

The Pavilion Social Club is a social and activity club for residents in the area. The club was established in March 2014 and has been very successful, growing steadily in numbers. We hold weekly get-togethers for men and women. Our club offers an exciting programme of activities including occasional guest speakers, theatre trips, lunches and visits to places of interest in both London and the South East but our main focus is on developing and encouraging social links and also on enjoying friendships new and old. You will always receive a warm welcome!

INTERESTED?

Do join us on Thursday afternoons at **THE PAVILION, 129 GRAND DRIVE, RAYNES PARK**

(The old Raynes Park Residents' Tennis Club)
from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m.

There is an annual membership fee of £5 and a weekly subscription of £2 to cover costs.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Light refreshments are available with thanks to Waitrose - Raynes Park, and local residents for their generous donations through the Community Matters scheme

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Editor's Blog

Motspur Park Post Office

Finally, finally, things are happening regarding the re-establishment of a PO branch in Motspur Park village. The new location is Sima Brothers Newsagents, 347 West Barnes Lane - next door to the previous location, at Ecklee. We are told the target date for opening is **20th March**.

Good Local Entertainment

If it's some good entertainment you are after, make sure to book your seat at the **Lantern Art Centre's** production of:

"A Bunch of Amateurs"

by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman

3rd - 6th April 2019

"So, can we go from Act One Scene Three...places please. Apologies from the Duke of Cornwall - his train's stuck outside Royston and the Duke of Albany's got childcare problems...."

Keen to boost his flagging career, fading Hollywood action hero Jefferson Steele arrives in England to play King Lear in Stratford - only to find that this is not the birthplace of the Bard, but a sleepy Suffolk village. And instead of Kenneth Branagh and Dame Judi Dench, the cast are a bunch of amateurs trying to save their theatre from developers. Jefferson's monstrous ego, vanity and insecurity are tested to the limit by the enthusiastic amateur thespians.

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Did you know that...

If you have lost a loved one and need help coping with your grief the **Raynes Park Bereavement Service** offers a free one-to-one session with one of their volunteers either on a Wednesday at Lambton Road Medical Centre or on a Saturday at the Nelson Health Centre? They can meet with you for as many sessions as you may wish.

To contact the service

telephone: 07914 263420 or email: raynesparkbereavement@gmail.com

Raynes Park Community Forum

The next Raynes Park Forum will be held on 26th March in the Library Meeting Room. It will be chaired by Cllr. Omar Bush, and amongst the items to be discussed are the proposed hike in parking charges; street cleaning, rubbish and recycling; Town Centre developments and the Railway. As well as the opportunity for residents to raise any other matters of concern.

Do You know of this person?

A friend of mine posted this Red Alert on my Facebook Timeline, it's from a lady named **Joan Hilder**. She writes:

"I am trying to trace an old friend. His name is Mike Jackman and [he] will be in his 70's. He used to live in Raynes Park/ Wimbledon. He loved to travel the world and spoke about emigrating to Australia. We lost touch about 19 years ago. Hopefully this message can be shared as I would love to catch up with him again."

Perhaps you can help.



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*Managed by the
Raynes Park & West Barnes Residents' Association*

BOROUGH WIDE GULLY CLEANSING

This is later than I had intended but better late than never.

The Wimbledon Times of 7th December last year carried a Public Notice from the London Borough of Merton (LBM) about gully cleaning across a wide area of the Borough including West Barnes and Raynes Park. This was due to start on 10 December and continue for up to 18 months.

The Notice says that work will be carried out on a "rolling basis" with warning signs being posted 3 days before work is expected to take place and cones being put in place the day before.

Under the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 (as amended) the Council has a Statutory duty to publish these sorts of Notices. That they have done, but I question whether the way it is being done is either adequate or as useful and constructive as it could be .

Gully cleaning is necessary not just to make the roads look cleaner but hopefully to ensure that rainwater is able to drain away and, if possible, prevent 'flash' flooding which is a potential problem in low lying parts of the Borough such as West Barnes.

Clearly this type of work can only be completed in a meaningful way if most of the vehicles, normally parked in a road, are parked elsewhere on the day concerned . But is three days' notice enough time to warn of what is about to happen? I doubt it.

Come Spring and Summer many car owners (who cannot park 'off-road') will be on holiday for a couple of weeks (without their cars!) and - under the existing system - will be totally unaware of what is about to happen.

The Schedule to the Public Notice contains a long list of roads - at a guess 250 to 300 - in alphabetical order, but of course the roads will not be cleaned in that order. Surely it should be possible - without too much additional effort - for the Department concerned at Merton to publish, say each month, a list of the of the roads to be cleaned during the following 2 months with INDICATIVE DATES of when EACH road will be dealt with.

I assume the Council MUST have this information on their files as part of their rolling work programme. Why not share it month by month with those who are likely to be affected?

Many of the roads listed are in the area covered by our Association. If the Council was willing to do so (and our Editor agreed) the Guide could carry an item giving a working guide to when roads were to be done .For example the April Guide would provide the indicative programme for the month of May and so on. It is hardly rocket science. Moreover, it might well help to ensure that more roads can be cleaned than I suspect is the case currently. Would one of our local Councillors like to take this suggestion forward please?

David Freeman

[I would be quite happy to publish the proposed cleaning Rota on a monthly basis if the Council wishes to send me the copy each month (16th April for May issue deadline, etc.) Editor.]



A point of view

The Heathrow Consultation

I went to the open consultation for the proposed Airspace and Future Operations at Heathrow held at the Antoinette Hotel Wimbledon on 12th February 2019. The consultation was about the changes in how planes at Heathrow will be using the runways and airspace.

The display boards were illustrated in the two booklets given out at the door. Their contents and further information are available at: - www.heathrowconsultation.com.

I am not convinced that this consultation should be completely open to the public. In my mind the decisions to be made would be best done by the staff at Heathrow. [For residents] the place for the holding pattern or stacking of the aircraft waiting to land will always be "Not over my back Yard"; and equally flight paths "over my neighbour's house not mine".

The way the public can help the planners is by informing them of things on the ground that, if possible, the flight paths and holding stacks can avoid.

In an ideal world, everyone would prefer not to hear planes at all - except when they are passengers going on a journey for themselves. Nobody is going to suggest that a holding pattern or flight path be sited over their home!

In the economic world, the more flights in and out of Heathrow, the better it is for the country

Membership Enquiries to

Andrew Barwick (8543 0978) andrew@thebarwicks.com

The annual subscription of £3 includes a free monthly copy of "the Guide" either hand delivered by one of our volunteers or via email if out of area.

and the worse it is for the residents that are affected by them. The number of flights is dictated by the number of people who need to fly. A lot of regulations regarding night flights and the hours for take-off and landings are already set by the government and various aviation authorities.

Airlines and airports fly planes for their passengers or cargo as a necessity. I cannot believe that there will be many airlines making costly flights with empty planes whilst adding to noise and pollution. In an ideal world aero-engines would be so efficient that they made little noise and used very little fuel so as not to affect the population around the airports. Until that day we should let the aviation planners decide when, where and how our airplanes should use Heathrow.

Michael Marks
RPWBRA Committee Member



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A Religious Perspective

Over the past few weeks the case of the “Isis teen” returning to the UK has received major media coverage. Ms Shamima Begum travelled to Syria at the age of 15 to join “Isis” the terrorist organisation and is now returning 4 years later to the UK carrying her unborn child.

The question, if the UK authorities should allow Ms Shamima Begum to return, has divided opinions.

My take on this as a Muslim and an Ahmadi Muslim is that firstly, let it be categorically clear that the ideology of Isis and similar groups are completely hateful, evil and abhorrent. Such groups and ideologies have nothing to do with Islam. So from a religious perspective her aiding or joining a terrorist organisation in the first place is already completely wrong.

Secondly, The Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) said that “Loyalty to your country is part of your faith”. So Muslims must always strive and wish for the betterment of their country, which for us is the UK.

As for her return, the UK should permit her to return for the sake of her innocent unborn child. If we can show our humanity towards evil and heinous criminals and as a society we have come to believe there should be no Capital punishment for even the hardest of criminals, then does the unborn, blameless child not deserve our humanity and sympathy?

In terms of the mother, Shamima Begum, if she returns she should be fully investigated by the authorities. If she has committed any crimes she should be charged according to the laws and sentenced accordingly.

Mudabbir Din

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Members of the public can drop in for advice with no appointment necessary for this free service.

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TUESDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2019

TUESDAY 12TH MARCH 2019

TUESDAY 9TH APRIL 2019

TUESDAY 14TH MAY 2019

TUESDAY 11TH JUNE 2019

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Croydon Airport Visitor Centre

As a volunteer with the Croydon Airport Society I thought readers might like to know about the Visitor Centre's Open Days on the first Sunday of every month (1100-1530) and over the Open House Weekend (see online programme).



According to Trip Advisor the Visitor Centre on the A23 Purley Way (free parking on forecourt, or tram to Ampere Way for 289 bus or East Croydon for 119 bus) is Croydon's leading tourist attraction and it's free although donations are always very welcome. Parties are welcome but it is advisable to book beforehand via info@croydonairportsociety.org.uk.

Croydon Airport has great historical

significance: Royal Flying Corps Station, London's first International Airport, Air Traffic Control innovator, home of Imperial Airways, departure airport for Amy Johnson's solo flight to Australia and Battle of Britain airfield. It is worth taking a guided tour as the guides are enthusiastic and knowledgeable. There is a Costa Coffee opposite, and other restaurants in the area. Disabled visitors have lifts, but the Control Tower can only be reached by steps.



Rosemary Lever
Association Member



CLOSING DATE

for all contributions is the 10th of the month preceding publication.

LETTERS



(Letters to the Editor should be sent to: Jilltruman2@gmail.com)

To: The Editor
 From: Bruce Cova
 Date: 28th January 2019

Re: Bombing of Merton and Morden

I have just read with interest your article about V1s and the bombing of Morden in the 2nd War. In particular, the paragraph concerning the bombing of Seymour Avenue. The bombs didn't land near Cleavland Avenue but right at the lower end of the green around about number 166/170.

I understood that it was a V1. My father and Uncle who lived at 188 caused much amusement to neighbours at this horrific moment as they had grabbed each other's Home Guard uniforms. They were very different sizes! My father couldn't do up his trousers and my uncle was trying to hold his up as they ran up the road to the site of devastation. From recollection of my parents' comments there were three or four houses destroyed on each side of the road. It was obviously a large explosion as the ceiling fell on my parents while in bed. Our house was 80 yards away I would guess. I was born in 188 in 1944 as I understood it, a few months later. My parents lived there until 2001.



To: Jill Truman
 From: Chris Chowns, LBM
 Date: 6th February 2019

[In answer to a resident's query regarding the seemingly permanent use of the Blue City Car Club of the Blenheim Road Charging Points Mr. Chowns writes:]

Re: Electric Charging Points in Blenheim Road

Thank you for your email dated 4th January 2019 and [your member's] email of 30th January 2019 concerning the above and passed to me for reply.

Through Source London the council has facilitated the introduction of 68 active electric vehicle charge points with a further 31 going live in the next couple of months. To further promote electric vehicles and to indirectly improve viability, the council has allowed a small number of Blue City Car Club vehicles (typically between 5 – 6) to operate across the borough from these charge points. The council will also be promoting a separate network of around 20 rapid chargers (50kw+), which can charge a typical electric vehicle in about 30 - 45 minutes to further improve the availability of electric vehicle charging infrastructure in Merton.

Due to the small number of blue city vehicles, scheme membership and hence the turn-over of these vehicles can be low. As a result, they can remain stationary for some time between rentals. The council normally seeks to ensure that at least one charge point in each location is free for casual users. I will therefore ask blue city to relocate their vehicles accordingly.

I would add that users can also book Source

London charge points in advance through the source web site/app.

The following links will help electric car owners to see where all the electric vehicle charge points are available, including those over the border in Kingston/Wandsworth and those on private land, such as retail units and supermarkets.

These sites include some great information and will help answer the many questions people raise when considering an electric vehicle.

Zap map:

<https://www.zap-map.com/>

Source London:

<https://www.sourcelondon.net/>

Powermystreet (request a charge point):

<https://powermystreet.co.uk/>



Morden Rotary Club News

Time to say thanks again to Santa, the elves and the support team who helped make our Christmas collection very successful just a few weeks ago. Despite a couple of wet evenings, your Rotary Club raised an excellent total to put into good causes in our local community. A special word of thanks to everyone who generously contributed as Santa did his sleigh rounds.

Also, we thank many more from further afield who visited us at the Lower Morden Lane illuminations. Great work again by the residents there, who've created a wonderful attraction to celebrate Christmas. Funds have already been allocated to St Raphael's Hospice, and we'll publish a list of other beneficiaries soon.

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Volunteers Needed

May we ask any of our readers if they might be able to volunteer a few hours to help us from time to time?

This year's Christmas rounds and collections is way off - but that's always a fun time to join in - and enjoy what we do. Much closer, the Summer Fairs' season is on our planning board right now. Is there anyone who can lend a sturdy gazebo for the day please? and help put it up! work part of the day?

Also, a new pilot scheme that Morden Rotary is operating would welcome your support. Aldi (Ewell by-pass branch) is donating fresh food and vegetables at "sell-by date" to us. A wonderful bonus! We collect two evenings a week from there and deliver to Faith in Action at The Salvation Army in South Wimbledon.

This organisation provides hot meals (and much more) to the homeless street people of Merton. Anyone who could help from time to time with the pick-up and delivery would be most welcome.

Or, have you any serviceable warm clothing, a sleeping bag, backpack etc you can donate please? (contact details for collection below).

Be our Guest

Would you like to be a Rotary Club guest one evening at The Morden Brook, Lower Morden Lane, SM4 4SS? Visiting speakers in the coming weeks are **Wimbledon Guild Feb 28th, Wimbledon Sailing Club March 28th and Child Cancer Care April 28th.**

These are all on Thursday evenings and we meet in the back room (where else!) at 6:30 pm. Please contact me if you would like to

join President Margaret Sinclair and the dozen other Rotary volunteers on one of these dates, or any other Thursday evening.

Pennies from Heaven

Finally, we still operate "Pennies from Heaven" - should you have a pile of small change or old coins or foreign currency, we can collect. It all goes to support St. Raphael's Hospice - over £6000 raised so far; AND every penny donated to us is spent on good causes WITHOUT any deductions or paid staff.

Thanks again for your support, and hopefully you may be able give us a helping hand in the future.

Best wishes to you all for a happy and healthy 2019.

Joss Ollett.

0208 404 6451 [office]

07973 141193 [mobile]

Email: sales@theleathertravelbag.co.uk



GUIDES BY POST SERVICE

If you live outside the Association's catchment area or have a friend or relative wishing to receive the Guide, postal subscriptions are available for £10 per year.

Please send a £10 cheque payable to RP&WBRA together with name and address to:

George Holder, 131 Grand Drive, SW20 9LY.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE AND OPEN MEETINGS

2019

March

Tuesday 12th Committee 8.00pm Pavilion

April

Wednesday 3rd AGM OPEN MEETING

7.30pm Raynes Park Library Meeting Rooms

May

Tuesday 7th Committee 8.00pm Pavilion

June

Wednesday 12th OPEN MEETING

7.30pm Blossom House School

July

Saturday 6th SUMMER SOCIAL

3.00pm Pavilion

Tuesday 9th Committee 8.00pm Pavilion

August

No meeting

September

Tuesday 10th OPEN MEETING

7.30pm Pavilion

October

Tuesday 8th Committee 8.00pm Pavilion

November

Tuesday 12th Committee 8.00pm Pavilion

December

**Saturday 7th Christmas Social 3.00pm to 5.30pm
Pavilion**

Notes of recent Discussions at the THE RAYNES PARK ASSOCIATION

1) Waste & Recycling Collections. As stated at the previous meeting, the main concern is around rubbish from the flats in the Kingston Road. Rubbish is often left outside and at the ends of our roads. The problem appears to be that these flat-dwellers do not have wheelie bins and often to leave their rubbish out weekly. Cllr. Anthony Fairclough said he would take this up with Merton. It was reported that the bins positioned at the bus-stop outside PAG had been removed. And that bins are being left permanently on the pavement. Additionally, commercial waste bins have been attracting rubbish resulting in their overflowing.

It was also reported that Veolia workers had been seen spraying dead leaves with weed killer!

2) CrossRail 2. Jerry Cuthbert reported that there had been no movement on this project. With the massive overspend on CrossRail,

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the possibility of CR2 is increasingly looking questionable. He spoke about the planning application in Burlington Avenue taking part of the Tesco car park. He pointed out that this development would frustrate the possibility of any of the options presented by the CR2 team from happening e.g. for a crossing point at West Barnes Lane. Jerry confirmed he has informed the CR2 team of this planning application.

3) Raynes Park Enhancement Plan

a) Bins on the north of the Skew Arch. Chris Larkman (Secretary) reported that he's been liaising with Cllr Stephen Crowe to try and hold a meeting with Charles Baker from London Borough of Merton (LBM).

b) Seating for Astro Turf on south side of Skew Arch. Tony Edwards has plans in hand! The concept is to test out some seating to ascertain the popularity.

4) Christmas Festival Feedback. Those who attended spoke well about this event. It is noted that the key part of the evening is the singing by local school choirs, where the children and their parents attend. Father Christmas was again very popular!

Chris Larkman reported on a post-event meeting chaired by Nick Coke (Salvation Army) who has managed the event for the past few years. Nick said that his church would not be able to commit themselves to organising and running an event on this scale in the future. There are other priorities. He commented that the sponsorship particularly creates an enormous amount of work. Nick would, however, be prepared to lead on a smaller event which would have minimal cost implications e.g. something outside the station entrance - say with local choirs taking turns to sing. Chris Larkman felt that in many ways it would be a pity - at this stage - to revert to something smaller when it had taken many years to come so far. The advantages of the

'Waitrose' car park is that we have a dedicated area which is also safe. The other factor in the equation is that few local businesses have become involved in the event. It is still hoped to build up a strong local business group, who may in time be willing to lead on such an event. He proposed that RPA accept Nick's offer to organise a 'smaller' event next Christmas. In the meantime, Chris Edge proposed that he, Tony Edwards, George MacGilliveray & Chris Larkman should meet to discuss this matter further. This was agreed.

Members extended their sincere thanks to Nick Coke for the great work he has done in leading this event.

5) The Station.

a) Embankment. Chris Larkman reported that David Langton from Network Rail (NR) has come up with some money to clear and plant the embankment on the north side of the railway. This news was welcomed. Chris is to set up a meeting with David and the contractors, together with Tony Edwards, Peter Fischer and Chris Edge. The concern is about the way in which any improvements will be managed going forward.

b) Land Transfer. Chris Larkman reported that Paul McGarry, LBM had informed him that at last the legal agreement has been signed by both Merton and Network Rail. The current position is that LBM has submitted a form to NR confirming the details of the planned work. They are currently awaiting acceptance from NR.

6) Issues from December Community Forum. It was agreed that the presentation from Thames Water about local flooding and the remedial work undertaken was extremely informative. Cllr Omar Bush will be chairing **the next Forum on 26 March**. Leonie Cooper, our

London Assembly Member, will be attending. Parking charges will also be discussed.

7) Proposed Parking Charges Increase. LBM are proposing doubling both the charges for parking in town centres and for CPZ permits. Members felt that the increase in charges in our town centre would have a detrimental effect. There were also calls for the introduction of 20 minutes free parking on the north of the railway to match that offered on the south. In terms of CPZ charges, it was felt that the increase amounted to a tax and was not reflected in the cost to the Council of running the service. It is also unfair in that the charge is not levied on people with their own driveways or those who live in a non-CPZ area. Chris E said he would write to the Council informing them of RPA's views.




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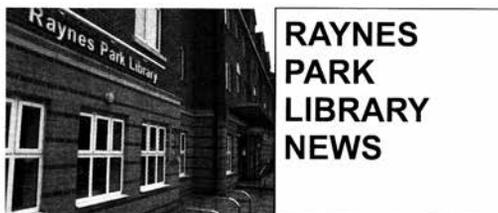
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Coming up at Raynes Park Library

To reserve a place where required, talk to staff, call 020 8274 5718 or
email: raynespark.library@merton.gov.uk.

Prevista

Steps to Work Thursday's, fortnightly (12.30pm – 2.00pm)

One-to-one sessions will be arranged to support Merton residents 19 years and above who are long-term unemployed (minimum of 6-months) and are actively seeking full-time work.

Booking is required.

Drop-In Police Surgery - Monday 4th March (10am-11am)

Come and discuss issues that matter to you in your community with your local officers.

No booking required.

Arty Social, 1st, 8th, 15h, and 22nd March. All events are on Fridays, 2 – 3pm (Term-time only)

Join our FREE friendly art club led by students from Kings College School. Beginners are very welcome. Get creative, learn new techniques and share ideas.

Drawing, still life, painting, sculpture and more!

British Red Cross

Free First Aid Sessions - Monday 4th March (1.00pm-3.00pm)

Come and join this free first aid training session and become equipped with essential skills in saving lives. Contact a member of staff to book a place.

The Joy of Singing Community Workshop – Begins Tuesday 5th March 2.30pm-4.00pm

This is an event for anyone who enjoys singing. Whatever level or ability. Join in and express yourself, build confidence, learn easy songs with others.
No booking required.



Police Contact Details

(Available 24 hours a day)

Emergency: 999

Non-Emergency: 101

Local Safer Neighbourhood Teams

(For direct contact with the team
but lines **not** monitored 24hrs a day)

West Barnes: 020 8721 2454
westbarnes.snt@met.police.uk

**You can now follow us on
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Cannon Hill: 020 8721 2455
cannonhill.snt@met.police.uk

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Lower Morden: 020 8721 2456
lowermorden.snt@met.police.uk

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Raynes Park: 020 8721 2459
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News from the Friends of West Barnes Library

(next to Motspur Park Station)



Friends of West Barnes Library

Volunteers needed

Can you spare a couple of hours occasionally? West Barnes Library urgently needs more volunteers to help at a range of levels to assist staff. You could be helping keep the library open for the people of Motspur Park. Training will be given. For details and to apply, please ask at the counter.

The FoWBL Events team are looking for volunteers to organise events and to come up with some new ideas. If you are interested in helping please contact the Friends at

mail@friendsowbl.org.uk
or friendsowbl.org.uk

What's on?

Coming up at West Barnes Library. . .

**To reserve a place where required,
talk to staff, call 020 8274 5789 or
email westbarnes.library@merton.gov.uk**

Book club

Friday 8th March - 6pm

To join contact library staff

Police Surgery**Monday 11th March 1-2pm**

A chance for residents to discuss local issues and concerns.

No booking required.**Author Event***Friends of West Barnes Library***18th March – 7.30pm -****Sometimes the truth is stranger than fiction -**

An evening with authors Rhidian Brook & Elisabeth Gifford.

Monday 18th March, 7.30pm

£1.00 entry fee, drinks and nibbles included.

Book in advance at the library call:

020 8274 5789 or email

westbarnes.library@merton.gov.uk**Local History Talk****Tuesday 19th March –****10.30-12.00pm**

Past & Present: How Merton, Morden and Mitcham have changed. Speaker: Mick Taylor, Merton Historical Society & Wandle Industrial Museum.

Free refreshments provided

No booking required**Adult Craft Workshop – Card Making**

Organised by Friends of West Barnes Library

Saturday 23rd March 2-4pm**Book in advance with library staff****Spring Fair***Organised by Friends of West Barnes Library.* **Saturday 30th March 2-4pm**

Stalls, tombola, games, book sale, knit & natter sale items and delicious cakes and refreshments.

Everyone welcome!

*Customer Experience Officer – West Barnes Library, Merton Library and Heritage Service, Community and Housing Dept.**Tel: 020 8274 5789**Fax: 020 8336 0554**www.merton.gov.uk***GLAZING REPAIRS**

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USEFUL NUMBERS

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Abandoned vehicles - 020 8274 4902
Adult & community education - 020 8543 9292
Allotments - 020 8545 3665
Area Forums (RP&WB) - 020 8545 4400
chrislarkman@gmail.com
Benefits service - 020 8545 4179
Blue badges - 020 8545 4661
Building control services - 020 8545 3145
Bulky household waste collection service - 020 8274 4902
Cemeteries - 020 8545 3666
Citizens advice bureau - 0844 243 8430
Consultation and Community Engagement Team - 0208 545 3896
www.merton.gov.uk/community.living/communityforums.htm
Family Information Advice and Guidance Team - 020 8274 5830
Council tax and finance - 020 8274 4904
Council tax benefit - 020 8274 4903
Cruse Bereavement Care - call our free helpline 0808 808 1677
Education welfare service - 020 8545 4021
Fly posting/Fly tipping - 020 8274 4902
Footpaths - 020 8545 3700
Freedom passes - 020 8545 4901
Garden waste - 020 8274 4902
Housing benefit - 020 8274 4903
Local Police Stations - 101
 (for Non-emergency matters in all Metropolitan Districts)

Merton Adult Access Team - 020 8545 4430
Noise - 020 8545 3025
Pest Control Advice - 020 8545 3022
Raynes Park Bereavement Service - 07914 263420
raynesparkbereavement@gmail.com
Road cleaning - 020 8274 4902
Road safety - 020 8545 3205
Road safety - 020 8545 3205
Rubbish & recycling - 020 8274 4902
Samaritans - whatever you're going through, call us free any time, from any phone on 116 123
School admissions - 020 8274 4906
Stray animals - 020 8274 4902
evenings - 08444 996063
Street lighting - 020 8545 3220
Tree preservation - 020 8545 3815

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Mrs. SUE PAINTER, 50 Westway (8540 3049)

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ALISON EASTON, 6 Elm Close (8543 7372)

PETER HUDSON, 86 Elm Walk (8395 9638)

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Hon. Legal Adviser: Hatice Mustafa, Pearson Hards, 2 Kingston Road, New Malden



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