

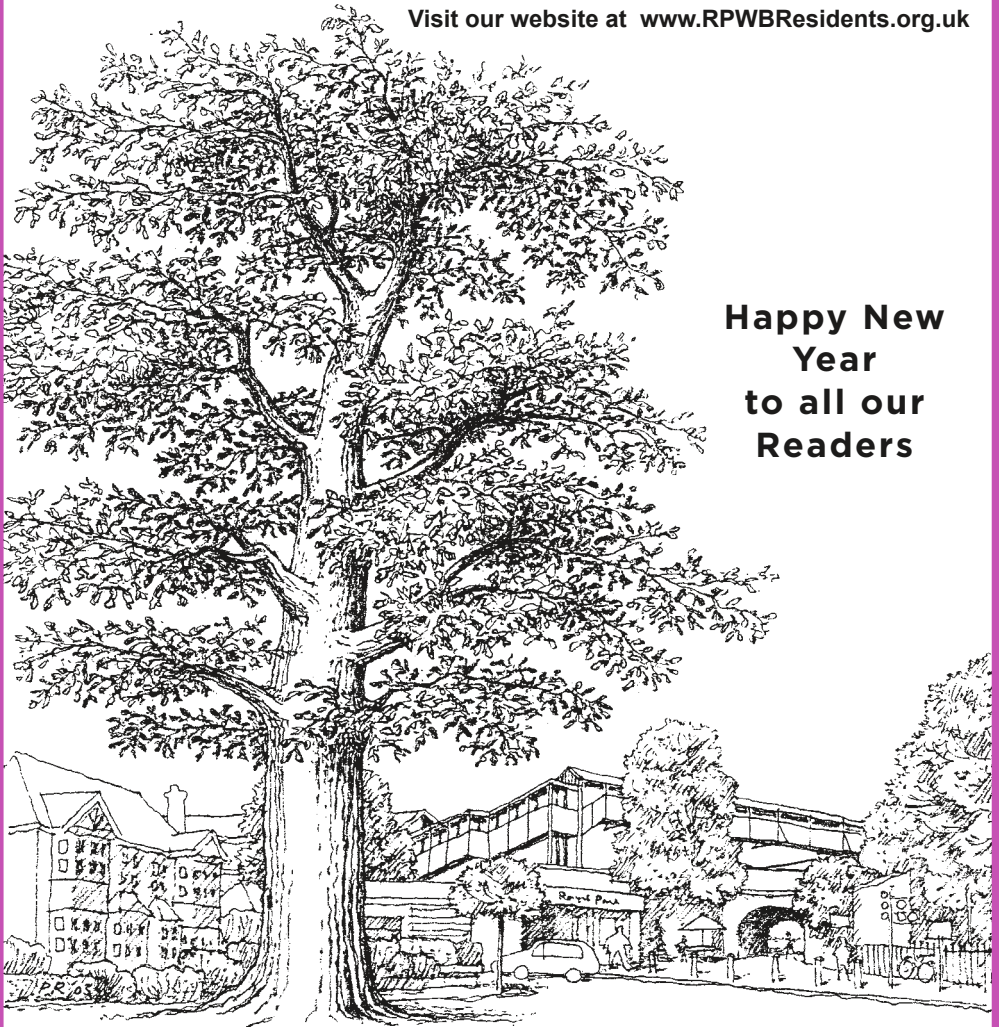
THE GUIDE

January 2018

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Raynes Park & West Barnes Residents' Association



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Affiliated Social Activities

Tennis Club Hon. Secs.: PHIL RYDER, (07958 360380). email: philip.ryder@blueyonder.co.uk

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: JILL TRUMAN, 020 8879 3525 &

ANDREA HANNAN, 020 8540 0164, Email: andrea.hannan@sky.com

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.

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CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

ALL ENGLAND CLUB SPORTS GROUND IN GRAND DRIVE

As we reported in the December edition of The Guide, the All England Club is proposing to provide additional tennis facilities at their ground off Grand Drive.

These include an additional air dome over three acrylic courts, which will be situated behind the present air dome, i.e. on the opposite side from the houses in Cannon Hill Lane. They also want to build 16 new international standard grass courts which will be used by the players competing in the Wimbledon Championship. In keeping with their wish to work with the local community, these grass courts will be available to use by local people, after registration and booking, for a nominal sum after the end of the Tournament and until the end of September. There is an all-year-round Community Tennis Programme on the acrylic courts. A new clubhouse is also being built.

The Club hosted two consultation meetings and sent out invitations to the 300 surrounding residents in Cannon Hill Lane, Elm Walk, Southway, and Grand Drive. I attended one of these, and there was a steady flow of residents in attendance.

As part of their proposals they intend to deal with the remaining flooding issues at the ground that have caused major problems over the years to some of the surrounding properties. These include the blockages that often occur to the Meadowsweet Ditch which prevents storm water running off. The residents were particularly interested in these.

The Ground is the home of the Wimbledon Junior Tennis Initiative and over 350 children from local schools now visit the site for coaching every weekend. The Club's coaching team visits 69 schools in Merton and Wandsworth, giving taster sessions and selecting pupils to receive coaching at the Ground. It also is the training base for the Wimbledon ball boys and ball girls, all of whom are drawn from local schools.

A sports pitch will be retained for community use on the eastern section of the site.

One suggested proposal which may cause controversy is for maintenance vehicles to be able to access the ground off Cannon Hill Lane. Given the outcry this caused when this was proposed as a main access for residential use, we hope that this will not be proceeded with in the formal application.

The Club intends to lodge this by the end of January, and, of course, anyone affected by the proposals can object at that stage. In the meantime, comments can be sent via e-mail to **consultation@rolfe-judd.co.uk** or by post to: Raynes Park Phase 2 Proposals, c/o Rolfe Judd Planning, Old Church Court, Claylands Road, London, SW18 1NZ.

[Editor's Note: The Club has submitted an Advertorial which we publish further on in this issue]

CLOSURE OF TWO NATWEST BANK BRANCHES

The Royal Bank of Scotland has announced that it intends to close 197 NatWest branches by June 2018. These include the branch in Morden and that in Wimbledon Village. Of course, the branch

In Raynes Park was closed some years ago. That will only leave the branch in the town centre of Wimbledon open for local customers.

The Bank, which is still largely owned by the taxpayer, justifies this on the grounds that the number of customers using branches has fallen by 40% in recent years in favour of customers using online and mobile transactions. That still leaves 60% of customers who want to access a branch.

I have to say that this is a totally retrograde decision. People have many reasons why they want to talk to a cashier in person. There are often queues of people at the Morden branch. As a customer of NatWest, I regularly use the branches that are to close in preference to that in the Town Centre, since every time I go there, there is a long queue of people waiting to see the cashiers. The queue is made worse since in each branch there are now only two over worked cashiers available to see people.

I suppose that it is useless to protest, but it is a woeful example of a state run organisation putting its own wish to maximise profits against the wishes and needs of the people it is supposed to serve.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

This year we will achieve 90 years of existence as a Residents' Association, a major achievement. We will be letting you know how we are proposing to celebrate this anniversary year.

Meanwhile, a Happy New Year to all our Members and readers.

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?

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**THE PAVILION, 129 GRAND DRIVE,
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(The old Raynes Park Residents'
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from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m.

There is an annual membership fee of
£5 and a weekly subscription of £2
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Light refreshments are available with
thanks to Waitrose - Raynes Park,
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*For more information
please do not hesitate to contact
**Jill Truman on 020 8879 3525
or Andrea Hannan on 020 8540 0164***



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Notes from the RAYNES PARK ASSOCIATION

Raynes Park Enhancement Plan

Railway News

A meeting was held between Paul McGarry LBM, Neil Milligan LBM, Tony Edwards, Chris Edge & Chris Larkman. The purpose of the meeting had been to discuss how to respond to a recent unhelpful email from Kirsty Scott (Network Rail) regarding improvements to Raynes Park Station. It was agreed that Chris Larkman would raise the issues with Stephen Hammond who has subsequently agreed to call a meeting at Westminster with Network Rail and key RPA members.

RPA has also asked LBM to take enforcement action against the owners of the property on Coombe Lane at the junction of Durham Road for removal of the advertising hoardings. Chris Larkman has also met with Shay Brown, Station Manager, who has agreed to note the matters which are specifically South West Rail to see how she can assist.

Bins to the North of the Skew Arch.

Stephen Crowe agreed that these bins should be removed, and he is going to follow up on this.

Local Business Issues

It was reported that cars continue to travel the wrong way on the one-way system, and there have been 'several accidents' including one serious one which was witnessed by Julie Donabie from her shop. Julie also said there has been several 'smash and grab' robberies including one opposite her shop when someone on a scooter smashed a car

window to steal a bag. She claimed there are still problems with flooding and illegal parking e.g. on pavements.

It was noted that Thames Water had made it clear at the last Community Forum that issues of flooding relating to the public sewer should be reported directly to them on 0800 807 060 or 0800 316 9800 rather than LBM. Blocked drains remain LBM's responsibility.

New Malden – Raynes Park Pedestrian & Cycle Route

This has now been formally approved. Details of the route through Raynes Park to be consulted on soon.

CrossRail2

Jerry Cuthbert noted that the project was not given the formal go-ahead in the budget, though it had received a brief mention.

Chris Larkman



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LOCAL COUNCILLORS

RAYNES PARK WARD

Adam Bush
c/o Merton Civic Centre
020 8545 3396 (Civic Centre)
adam.bush@merton.gov.uk

Stephen Crowe
c/o Merton Civic Centre
020 8545 3396 (Civic Centre)
stephen.crowe@merton.gov.uk

Jill West
c/o Merton Civic Centre
020 8545 3396 (Civic Centre)
jill.west@merton.gov.uk

WEST BARNES WARD

Gilli Lewis-Lavender
17a Blenheim Road, SW20
020 8543 1781
gilli.lewis-lavender@merton.gov.uk

Brian Lewis-Lavender
17a Blenheim Road, SW20
020 8543 1781
brian.lewis-lavender@merton.gov.uk

Mary-Jane Jeanes
35 Linkway, SW20 9AT
020 8542 9411
mary-jane.jeanes@merton.gov.uk

CANNON HILL WARD

Tobin Byers
c/o Merton Civic Centre
020 8545 3425 (Civic Centre)
tobin.byers@merton.gov.uk

Pauline Cowper
c/o Merton Civic Centre
020 8545 3425 (Civic Centre)
pauline.cowper@merton.gov.uk

Fidelis Gadzama
c/o Merton Civic Centre
020 8545 3425 (Civic Centre)
fidelis.gadzama@merton.gov.uk

LETTERS



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

To: The Editor
From: Cllrs Brian and Gilli Lewis-Lavender
Date: 6th December 2017

New Wheelie Bin Scheme – an Alternative view

We read in last month's edition of the Guide a letter from Mary-Jane Jeanes that discussed wheelie bin proposals. She has indicated that a larger proportion of residents are in favour of wheelie bins. Judging from discussions we have had with local people we wonder whether Mary-Jane is asking the right questions.

As she quite rightly says a fair number of residents have purchased their own wheelie bins. Of course, they are perfectly entitled to do this. However, if you ask the same residents if they would like three wheelie bins, two boxes and a food caddy AND only receive fortnightly collections, we think you will find that the answer is very much different!

We could produce comparable tables on how much longer it would take the refuse collectors to collect the rubbish and take it to the lorry - and many other reasons why most residents are not in favour of the proposed scheme. but that would be a waste of everybody's time. Residents are far too intelligent so will be able to work it out for themselves.





The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club

**The All England Lawn Tennis Club
Community Sports Ground,
216 Grand Drive, SW20 9NB**

Following the launch of its dedicated website <https://www.communitytennis.aeltc.com> and an online booking system, the AELTC Community Sports Ground is officially open for players of all ages and abilities to register and join.

In 2015, the AELTC developed an area of its site at 216 Grand Drive, Raynes Park, installing six acrylic tennis courts, three of which are covered by an inflatable dome; the three outdoor courts are floodlit.

These facilities are used for weekend skills and coaching all year-round by the Club's local schools outreach programme, the Wimbledon Junior Tennis Initiative

(WJTI), as well as by the Ball Boys and Ball Girls (BBGs) for training in the build-up to The Championships.

At times when the WJTI and BBGs are not using the facilities, the Community Sports Ground has created a Community Tennis Programme that offers affordable and accessible tennis sessions. There are junior mini-tennis sessions available Monday to Friday and adult sessions during the day and in the evenings. Full details of all the sessions available can be found at <http://www.communitytennis.aeltc.com>.

To join the Centre there is a nominal one-off registration fee. Once registered, players may book coaching courses - available 13 days in advance - or simply book a court to play.

The Community Sports Ground currently has four schools visiting the centre every week during curriculum time for free tennis lessons.



The AELTC Community Sports Ground recently held a public consultation with local residents to share its plans to allow further improvements to the site.

These plans include the development of 16 Championships' specification grass courts, three additional covered hard courts and a clubhouse to support these amenities. The grass courts would help to alleviate a shortage of practice facilities for the professional players in the build-up and during The Championships and once the tournament is over, some of the courts will be available for community play.

The additional covered courts will provide courts for the community to use throughout the year and will be key to expanding the Community Tennis Programme by allowing players to participate and enjoy tennis all year-round. Especially helpful given the recent weather!

If you are interested in visiting the centre, playing tennis at the Community Sports Ground or hearing more about the future plans for the site, please contact Catherine Edser/ Andrew Ambrose at cgro@aeltc.com



Police Contact Details

(Available 24 hours a day)

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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.@met.pnn.police.uk
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Cannon Hill: 020 8721 2455
cannonhill.@met.pnn.police.uk
You can now follow us on
TWITTER @MPSCannonHill

Lower Morden: 020 8721 2456
lowermorden.@met.pnn.police.uk
You can now follow us on
TWITTER @MPSLowerMorden

Raynes Park: 020 8721 2459
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You can now follow us on
TWITTER @MPSRaynesPark

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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.

A TALE OF HOPE AND COLLABORATION

Raynes Park Vale FC Clean Up

As a local resident of 54 years and a football fan, I thought you might like this Raynes Park tale of hope, help and collaboration.

After 30 years of being a season ticket holder at Wimbledon FC and AFC Wimbledon, I thought that my local football club Raynes Park Vale FC, situated in Grand Drive, might need some help. AFC Wimbledon already had 4,000 fans and 300 volunteers, whereas Raynes Park Vale had precious little.

RPV plays non-league football at Level 10 in the Combined Counties League Division 1, a league in the English football pyramid (only 9 promotions from the Premier League) with proper referees, linesmen and floodlights. Raynes Park Vale even play in the FA Cup!

Initially I volunteered to be the photographer, maintain the club's website and update the twitter feed, combining my hobbies of photography, motorcycling and technology with my love of footy. The new 2017/18 season began. To my surprise I enjoyed watching the First Team very much. I didn't imagine that I could get passionate about a game where sometimes there would only be 25 spectators. For some away matches I would strap on my backpack, get on the motorbike, wiz to parts of deepest Surrey, Hampshire or Sussex where I could take pics, tweet, then at home write up the match report and the player stats on the website. All greatly appreciated by the players.

However well the players were doing on the pitch, they were up to 5th in the league, off the pitch the club was in a pretty run-down state. The club has no groundsman, no maintenance man, no money and virtually no volunteers. One of the biggest problems was a build-up of rubbish around the clubhouse. This disturbed me greatly and is obviously detrimental to everyone involved. Then I heard of complaints from residents who walk past our (private) land and who had in turn written to the local Councilors. I wrote to them assuring them that something would be done if only I could



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

find some volunteers.

Then I discovered in October that we had a letter from the League saying that unless we had a huge tidy-up we would lose our league status by the end of December 2017. Dire stuff. The list of work to be done included getting rid of rubbish; clearing away tons of brambles; reinstatement of perimeter fencing; some woodwork repairs to the stand and ground toilets, and so on. The list seemed endless, a pretty big task to a club with only one or two volunteers.

Raynes Park Vale FC, a team that has 15 youth teams and that can trace its roots back to 1928 as the Southern Railways Football Section, faced extinction. Fortunately help was at hand. A gentleman called Lukasz Kisiel had

previously introduced himself to the chairman Paul Bentley offering help. I went to meet Lukasz at the ground to show him what needed doing. Lukasz explained he was the MD of Kisiel Group, a Chartered Building Company based in Raynes Park. He strongly believes in supporting the local community and was still very keen to help. We had a good look around the ground and later I met with Lukasz and general manager Annie Summun, at their offices.

A rescue plan was hatched! Help was indeed at hand. Like magic, at 8am on a frosty Saturday morning 25th November, a team of 13 Kisiel volunteers descended upon the ground like angels in hi-viz yellow. They proceeded to clear four skip loads of rubbish, removed tons of bramble from the side of the ground,

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provided and installed 100 meters of new horas fencing, fixed broken windows, boarded up old toilets, binned heaps of old netting and hoardings, cleared moss from pathways and cut the grass areas behind the spectator pathways. All in a day! They worked at an amazing pace; a massive transformation performed with good grace, humour, a BBQ, lots of tea and a little beer. The chaps had done a cracking job.

The work even made the front page of the Wimbledon Guardian where Lukasz Kisiel was quoted saying “I am very proud of my team for volunteering to use their construction skills for our local football club. They are helping the local community to make our environment even more enjoyable for both RPV FC and other members of the public who use the surrounding area for recreational

activities.” Which is absolutely true. The club is so grateful to them for standing up to the plate and helping.

There is still work to do but over the next few months the place will look even better. Kisiel will have their name on the shirts as main sponsors on a new kit, the exterior fencing will be enclosed by mesh covers and a charity football event is planned to help homeless people via Kisiels nominated West London Mission charity.

Raynes Park has a football team that I think can be successful and gain one or two promotions. I believe the club can be a tidy, village style club with the clubhouse open for other activities and groups. But we definitely need more helpers and volunteers. From making the teas to the odd bit of handy work or even just coming along to watch.



If you are interested in supporting the club or volunteering please email me at tait_tait@yahoo.co.uk

It would be great if anyone out there reading this would like to get involved.

Dominic Tait
Raynes Park Vale FC volunteer

For Raynes Park Vale news and live match reports on Twitter@RPVFC



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Another Good News story!

After falling from a nest on Prince Georges', this chick was "rescued" by Lycee Groundsman Domingos Afonso, who climbed a ladder and put the chick safely back in its nest – but not before taking this picture on his phone.



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- Helping those who live alone feel safer and more in control and giving peace of mind to their family and friends.

To get a FREE call blocking device, YES should be answered to the following:

1. Do you or the person you are applying for receive nuisance and scam calls?
2. Does the person who would like the call blocker have dementia?

If you answered yes to the above, then please apply at:

www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/callblocker.

We would also encourage you to do the 20-minute Friends Against Scams online learning. Friends Against Scams has been created to tackle the lack of scams awareness by providing information about scams and those who fall victim to them.

If you have any queries, please contact us at: **Call.BlockerProject@eastsussex.gov.uk**. To see what else the government is doing to combat nuisance calls, search for #NoNuisance on social media.

National Trading Standards Scams Team



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE AND OPEN MEETINGS

*Committee Meetings begin at 8.00p.m.
Open Meetings including the AGM begin
at 7.30p.m. All Committee Meetings plus
September and December Open Meetings
are at the Pavilion.*

January - Tuesday 9th - Committee, Pavilion
8.00pm.

February - NO MEETING

March - Tuesday 13th - Committee, Pavilion
8.00pm.

Details of some of our other meetings have yet to be confirmed.



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RAYNES PARK AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

"Leading women forward"

Alice in Winterland – the Christmas show at the Rose Theatre, Kingston – was enjoyed by a small party from the TWG. Loosely based on the Alice in Wonderland tale it proved to be a delightful well produced play with a big cast, incorporating music and dance, and large creatures animated by teams of the cast. For those looking for something a little different from the usual pantomime this was perfect.

The Christmas Lunch was very well attended, arranged at The Leather Bottle, Merton. Members had a choice of menu, all variations being well received by members.

Our first meeting in the New Year will be on Thursday, 18th January at 1.30 at St Saviour's Church Hall. Mel Rees will give a talk entitled 'My family and other setbacks'. As always, visitors will be welcome.

Best wishes from the Townswomen's Guild for a healthy and happy 2018.

Dorothy Raymond



CLOSING DATE

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

14-26 Natural Health

361 West Barnes Lane, Motspur
Park KT3 6JF

Lesley Reid

Reflexology/Hypnotherapy

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lesley@14-26.co.uk

Dr Sharon O'Driscoll

Counselling Psychologist

07703 299 177

stodriscoll@btinternet.com

Gillian Hibbert

Personal Counsellor

07494 225 796

cwtchcounselling@gmail.com

USEFUL NUMBERS

Below is a list of telephone numbers for Council services. If a service is not listed here which you would like information on, please call the main reception number on 020 8274 4901 and staff will be happy to help.

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](http://www.merton.gov.uk/community.living/communityforums.htm)

Online Merton Family Services

Directory - Provides details of Ofsted registered childcare providers in Merton, support services for families, activities for children and young people and more. www.merton.gov.uk/fsd

Council tax and finance - 020 8274 4904

Council tax benefit - 020 8274 4903

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

Grounds Maintenance - 020 8545 3664

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

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Road safety - 020 8545 3205

Rubbish & recycling - 020 8274 4902

School admissions - 020 8274 4906

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Stray animals - 020 8274 4902

evenings - 08444 996063

Street lighting - 020 8545 3220

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