



October 2015 Edition

# The Review

You are invited to the  
**WEST BECKENHAM & COPERS COPE AREA  
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS' ANNUAL FORUM**  
8.00pm Tuesday 20 October 2015  
Venue 28, Beckenham Road

Welcome to the Autumn Review. Do come to the Forum and meet your elected representatives. **Judith Niechcial, Editor**

## **URGENT MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER – PLEASE CHANGE TO STANDING ORDER**

It is difficult for us to collect, handle and bank lots of cash and cheque subscriptions. So I am asking that, if you don't already, please start to pay by Standing Order.

I know it seems odd to pay such small amounts by standing order, but it is the easiest way for you to pay, and for us to manage. You are always in control of a Standing Order - you can cancel at any time. ***So please complete the form at the end of the Review*** (payment will not start until next April) and send it to me at the address given. Many thanks.

**Daniel Holden, Treasurer**

You will have received this copy of *The Review* by post. **If you are willing to have future editions of the Review by email, please email [mpenderwbra@btinternet.com](mailto:mpenderwbra@btinternet.com)**

**Planning** - by Marie Pender

Rising Sun pub Upper Elmers End Road and Pheonix House, Croydon Road Beckenham are both now being demolished to be replaced by housing.

213 Kings Hall Road

The application for the erection of 5 houses at the rear of 213 Kings Hall Road was refused and a second appeal has been lodged.

Rowden Works

A new application for 8 flats, similar to ones refused in the past, was also refused but an appeal has been lodged.

Too many offices being converted fo flats?

New applications continue to be made to change offices into flats. In August,

LB Bromley issued an "Article 4" direction in respect of parts of Bromley High Street. This has the effect of cancelling the permitted development rights conferred by Eric Pickles. The Beckenham Town Centre Team has written to Peter Dean, chair of the Development Control Committee and Kelsey and Eden Park Councillor, to ask if an Article 4 Direction can be made in respect of Beckenham High Street.

If fewer and fewer people work in and around the High Street, there will be fewer and fewer customers for local shops during the working day. Beckenham's wide range of individual shops will increasingly depend on evening and weekend trade and we risk losing them altogether.

### **Bus Routes 352 and 354**

Sunday Running started on 20 September. Buses will run every half hour and the same arrangements for hail and ride will apply. Over 600 responses were made to the consultation, so thanks to everyone who took part. Thanks also to James Cleverly for supporting this.

**The Public Toilets in Beckenham** at Thornton's Corner, are now for sale.



Although Copers Cope Area RA successfully applied to have the toilets listed as an Asset of Community Value, no bids were made for community use. Thankfully, the flower beds are not included but

there will be pedestrian access over part of them. The tender document says the recent designation of the High Street as a Conservation Area means that any proposal should be of a modest scale, such as small scale retail or office use. Any change of use or redevelopment will need planning permission.

### **Elmers End Green**

There is still no planning application for the toilet block. We are working with LB Bromley on a plaque to record the history of the Green and its surrounding area, funded from £1000 from the council (money provided by Tesco for their Tesco Local at the War Memorial), topped up with money from a donation.

### **Bakerloo Line Extension**

While, LB Bromley continue to oppose the extension to of this line to Bromley, LB Croydon have started lobbying to have the line

extended to Croydon instead. Transport for London say they are considering this proposal as part of further analysis of the consultation responses. They aim to publish a report later in 2015. If a decision is made to progress the scheme, and the necessary funding secured, it is anticipated that construction could commence around 2023 and be completed in approximately 2030.

### **Town Centre Team and the High Street**

Work on the re-alignment of the road junction at Beckenham Junction should have been started but then it was found that Virgin's cables had been laid at the wrong depth and would have to be dug up! This would take two months, and so work in the main junction re-alignment would not start until just before Christmas. The constant delays to the junction improvements is

extremely disappointing, but the Town Centre Team consider that this disruption should not occur in this important time for the High Street traders and so want it to be delayed until the New Year.

### **Adult Education**

Adult education provision in Bromley is still under threat. The current proposal is to shut, (and presumably sell) the Widmore Centre, with subsequent loss of classes such as pottery and silversmithing which need specialist equipment, but keeping Kentwood and Poverest Centres.

Although some courses are full you can still enrol, and this Autumn the Widmore Centre is still open. The website is [www.baec.ac.uk](http://www.baec.ac.uk)

**Croydon Road Recreation Ground** Friends of Croydon Road Recreation Ground [www.becrec.net](http://www.becrec.net)

The grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the refurbishment of the last remaining traditional bandstand in Bromley was submitted on 14 September. The bandstand was opened to the public in 1898. The application includes restoration costs as well as a series of community events and activities. The Friends of Croydon Road Recreation Ground expect to hear the outcome in December.

**Visit to the new Museum of the Mind at Bethlem Hospital** - by Marie Pender

WBRA were invited to a talk on the history of Bethlem Royal Hospital and its predecessors in London. Caroline Smith, Education and Outreach Officer, gave a talk to about 25 members and friends who attended on 16 September. Bethlem

Royal Hospital was founded in 1247 and was the first institution in the UK to specialise in the care of the mentally ill. The hospital continues to provide in-patient care as part of the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust, and has been at its current location on Monks Orchard Road since 1930

The Museum of the Mind has been open to the public since February 2015 in the Hospital's former administration building. Its displays offer unparalleled resources to support learning about the history of mental healthcare and treatment. There is no charge for entry.

The Museum cares for the archives of Bethlem Royal Hospital, the Maudsley Hospital and Warlingham Park Hospital, and other historic objects and art, including works by former Bethlem patients such as Jonathan Martin, Richard Dadd and Louis Wain.

Ms Smith gave a fascinating account of the development of mental health care in London and the south east. Men and women were always separately housed but “visitors” were allowed, on payment of a donation, to see how the patients lived, which sadly, but inevitably, led to a voyeurism that we would frown on today.

We also visited an exhibition on the Home Front in WWI, and the permanent museum.



The museum also has regular free events:-

2pm 7 November archivist Colin Gale talks about Bethlem's 'Criminal Lunatic' Department where artist

Richard Dadd was a patient.

7pm 12 November,- Mike Jay speaks on the life of James Tilly Matthews, and signs copies of his book *The Influencing Machine*

2pm 28 November, 2pm - Gill Smith discusses the after-life of Bethlem's third building as the Imperial War Museum

10am 5 December, a free drop-in event for all ages. Come and create your own Louis Wain Christmas Cat tree decorations to take home, and help decorate the tree in the museum.

See the full programme on <http://museumofthemind.org.uk/about>

In the time available, we were able to contact members only through the email addresses we hold. If you would like to join in another visit, email at [mpenderwbra@btinternet.com](mailto:mpenderwbra@btinternet.com) or call Marie on 020 8658 5355.

## **Federation of Bromley Residents' Associations**

All the Residents' Associations in Bromley, large and small, are able to meet together regularly under the umbrella of the Federation. A great deal of time at most meetings is taken up with concern about the impact of noise at Biggin Hill airport. This does not cause difficulties here in Beckenham, and we feel it is important that Biggin Hill can continue to be a successful business, as, if it were threatened, it is likely that developers would swoop, and a large green area and employment sites in the Borough would be lost.

The Federation is also concerned about the loss of council staff due to finance cuts and the continuing trend to privatise important services as libraries.

At a meeting on 17 September 2015 the speaker was Mary Manuel,

Head of Planning Strategy and Projects at the Council. She spoke about the 'Bromley Local Plan'. The plan replaces the UDP and will last 15-20 years. It identifies 'locations for strategic development and the locations for growth areas with significant opportunities for change and enhancement, as well as areas where protection and more constrained development is anticipated'. The plan aligns with the Mayor Boris Johnson's 'London Plan'.

A particular problem seems to be that Free Schools are being set up that don't have sites. (Such as the proposed 'Beckenham Academy' which will occupy temporarily premises at Ravensbourne School in Hayes Lane - *ed.*) The concept of 'Urban open space' is meant to add flexibility to the designation of Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) so that existing schools can expand.

Areas of 'special residential character', such as Chelsfield Park, are designated. Other issues are the suggestion that some parcels of green belt land be designated as travellers' sites, and a proposed reduction in the requirement for parking spaces in new residential developments. Hard copies of the Plan are available in libraries. (The online version is difficult to access). The consultation period on the plan is very short, ending on 31 October 2015.

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**Centenary of W.G.  
Grace's death  
23 October 1915**



The cricketing career of Dr William Gilbert Grace, W.G. as he was known, spanned

48 years from 1861 to 1908. During his 43 years as a first-class player he scored 54,896 runs, including 126 centuries, and took 2,876 wickets. He made his Test debut at the age of 32 in 1880. Aged 52 in 1900, when his international career was over, he formed the London County Cricket Club based at Crystal Palace Park. He played first-class county matches with them until 1908. During these years he often appeared during the annual cricket weeks at Beckenham Cricket Club in Foxgrove Road.

WG's final match was for Eltham Cricket Club at Grove Park on 25 July 1914, a week after his 66th birthday. He died in Eltham on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 1915 and is buried in the Beckenham Cemetery in Elmers End.

On Friday 23 October 2015 there will be two W.G. centenary events:-



- At 4.30 pm Derek Carpenter will conduct a Remembrance Service at W.G.'s grave in **Beckenham Cemetery**.
- 7.30 pm in **St George's Church**, Beckenham when the guests will include notable cricketing names and Beckenham's Rob Bonnet of BBC Sports. Peter Warlock's *Cricketers of Hambledon* will be performed.

### **Cambridge English Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of other Languages**

WBRA Committee member, Arnjali Rowe, writes about her recent return to learning:

'My class in Central London was amazing – so diverse – other trainee colleagues were from Latvia, Italy, China, Iran, Bulgaria, Pakistan, Somalia, Lithuania as well as the UK. This added to the learning experience, as we all brought different cultural

perspectives and ideas to the classroom. I really enjoyed the camaraderie and support we gave each other during our teaching practice.

The two lecturers who conducted the classes were very experienced and effective. We had to learn basic Greek in one of our lessons – an exercise designed to increase our empathy as teachers and ensure that we too experienced the difficulties of learning a new language! Our students who attended the free classes and were our 'guinea pigs' for our teaching practice were equally varied: mostly Colombian, but also Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Peruvian, Iranian, Pakistani and Chinese. What impressed me most was that they came for our classes after a full day's work, one of my students got up at 5 a.m. and still found the energy and motivation to attend the evening classes from 6-8

p.m. They were so keen to improve their written and spoken English. Here too the cultural differences between the students were interesting – the Chinese students were so polite and quiet that I was never quite sure whether they understood what I taught them! The South Americans, however, were more vocal and practised speaking more, even if they made mistakes.

The six month part-time course, which consisted of twice weekly lectures, assignments and teaching practice flew by and in September I received my certificate from Cambridge University. As a mature student, I was at first apprehensive about returning to studying but I can heartily recommend taking on the challenge. I now look forward to a new and exciting change of career.'

## **Street Cleaning**

Councillor Vanessa Allen (Labour) has told us that the Street Cleaning Schedule is now available on the Bromley council website, please see the link below. She writes, 'We obtained it for the three wards Clock House, Penge & Cator and Crystal Place some months ago and have publicised it on our websites and in our leaflets, but it is only in the past week or so that the schedule has finally been published on the Bromley Council website for all to see. This link is at present the only way to see the schedule'.

[http://maps.bromley.gov.uk/map/Aurora.svc/run?script=%5cAurora%5cBromleyAuroraCleansing.AuroraScript%24&nocache=1837211757&resize=always\)](http://maps.bromley.gov.uk/map/Aurora.svc/run?script=%5cAurora%5cBromleyAuroraCleansing.AuroraScript%24&nocache=1837211757&resize=always)

## **Word On The Web**

Bromley borough residents can now check out local businesses and services

before they buy, thanks to a new website that lets them search social media reviews as well as those listed on the site itself: [www.wowbromley.co.uk](http://www.wowbromley.co.uk).

The website is the brainchild of Lynda Wright owner of Baccarat Hair Design in Beckenham. You can currently search for businesses and offers, read reviews and ask questions of reviewers. There are plans to add local events, jobs, property for sale/let and local news to the site.

### **Caring for someone with dementia?**

Bromley Council has developed an on-line resource on the Bromley MyLife website for people with dementia and their carers. The link is <http://bromley.mylifeportal.co.uk/dementia>

You can find out more about the disease, from getting a diagnosis to details of carers groups and dementia cafes.

Also the Alzheimers Society has developed free 'Help Cards' on which medical conditions can be entered and the contact details of someone who can be alerted in an emergency. Contact the Society on 0300 303 5933. **NB Carers Bromley** has a Helpline on 0800 015 7700

**Beckenham Lions** by Cliff Watkins (with information from Stuart Argent).

In January 1971, local people wishing to form a Lions Club in Beckenham, obtained the required charter from Illinois HQ of Lions International. Other organisations which existed to raise funds for charity when the Lions started in Beckenham were the Round Table and the Rotary Clubs. The hut used by the Lions in a lane off Beckenham High Street was one of two that had been built for the workers building new culverts after the severe 1968 flooding. The alleyways naming

project has agreed to name this alley after the Lions.

The Lions hut provided a tea room and lounge and the first charity shop in Beckenham. But with the growing number of national "chain" charity shops in the High Street itself, the Lions shop struggled.



*Morning tea at the Lions clubhouse*

With the exception of the St Christopher's Hospice shop, little of the funds raised by the national charities goes to local good causes, unlike the Lions whose members would decorate for elderly folk. They organised the annual Lions Festivals in Croydon Road Rec. Also in the park they helped with the annual

May Queen celebrations and the Beckenham Hospital Fairs, and sold 'Medic Alert' bracelets for wheelchair users.

To advertise their forthcoming events, the Lions towed a trailer up and down the High Street and adjoining roads. On the trailer was 'Rory the Lion'. Rory was made of fibreglass and was 6 feet wide, 10 feet tall and 17 feet long. With human Lions on board, Rory started his journeys from the St George's car park. Sometimes the trailer carried a very large poster and just Rory's head.

Rory was used by other Lions groups in Kent and the South East. When not needed he was stored in an aircraft hanger at Biggin Hill. Also, Rory was an honorary member of the Friends of Beckenham Hospital. Lion members helped with the annual Hospital Friends fund

raising fetes held in Croydon Road Rec.

In the last few years the membership of the Beckenham Lions dwindled and the ages of the remaining members reduced their activities. When the rent of the land, which was £25 pa in the 1970's, reached £4000 the Lions finally closed this year, to the delight of the land owner who wants to sell it to a developer.

In 2004, HRH Countess of Wessex became the Patron of Lions Clubs in the British Isles. Today there are some 800 Clubs in the UK and Ireland who strive to live up to their motto: *We Serve*. Croydon Lions are still going, and took part in this year's Addiscombe Carnival.

### **Bromley Youth Music Trust**

This important part of the education scene in Bromley is facing uncertain times

with the council's funding being reduced by half this financial year and discontinued entirely from next April. However there is a huge well of support for BYMT, and the Trust is looking for other ways of raising funds. Ian Rowe, the Principal, is working tirelessly to get BYMT on to a sound financial footing. The hope is that Bromley Council's support via the lease of the premises on Southborough Lane can be continued for many years into the future. The best way of supporting BYMT and the ongoing music making of thousands of children and indeed adults, is to come along to one (or more) of their concerts. All details can be found on [www.bymt.co.uk/events](http://www.bymt.co.uk/events)

### **Christmas Market**

The Christmas Market on Beckenham Green will be held on 5 December 2015. There will be artisan and local food, crafts and gifts, Xmas entertainment and a candle lit parade.

**This edition's recipe** - by  
Eileen Penfold

**Chocolate Chunk  
Cookies**

1 small egg,  
75 g/3 ozs walnut pieces  
250 g/9 ozs dark chocolate  
250 g /9 ozs sunflower  
margarine  
50 g/2 ozs caster sugar  
100 g/4 ozs soft brown  
sugar,  
2 reaspoons natural vanilla  
essence,  
300 g/11 ozs plain flour,  
1 teaspoon baking powder,

1. Line two baking sheets with non-stick baking parchment. Set oven to 170c, 340F, Gas 3. Crack egg into a mug and whisk lightly with a fork. Roughly chop the walnut pieces and chocolate.

2. Place margarine, caster sugar, brown sugar and vanilla essence in a bowl and beat until light and fluffy. Beat in 2 tablespoons of the egg and discard any leftover. (Tip: Measure the egg carefully and do not be tempted to

add more than the recipe states or the cookies will spread too much. A cookie, unlike a biscuit, should be crisp on the outside and soft in the middle, even when cold.)  
3. Add sifted flour and baking powder, walnuts and chocolate and stir well to combine.  
4. Divide mixture in about 20 pieces and roll into balls then flatten slightly and arrange evenly on prepared baking sheets.  
5. Bake for about 10 minutes or until pale golden and the centres feel soft. Leave to cool for 5 minutes before transferring to a wire rack.

**Venue 28**

A number of businesses and activities are basing themselves at what was The Studio, now 'Venue 28'. One of these is 'Splatter Make', started by local mother Amanda Litster with a vision to offer both children's and adults classes based around life

skills that are dying out, such as growing vegetables, cooking from scratch, 'Making do and Mending'.

Their end goal is to bring the community together and equip it with valuable life skills that are easily passed on. In the near future they plan to work with the council to help people get back on their feet and provide classes to low income families.

Here are some pretty skirts hand-made by children in the summer programme.



An **'Art and Heritage'** Exhibition was held on 7 July. Cliff Watkins of WBRA Committee planned a local history room with panels illustrating the history of the Clockhouse area, and a

film showing Enid Blyton's five different houses in Beckenham. Paintings were shown on the stairwell.

A **'Clockhouse Fun Fest'** was held outside Venue 28 and The Spa on 14 August with craft stalls and food provided by Belleberry Deli, but it was bedeviled by pouring rain for most of the evening, so many fewer people came than were anticipated. More events are planned, particularly a major concert in May 2016.

A vintage fair, **'So Last Century'** was held on 13 September, with lots of stalls and this attracted more than 800 visitors.

## **HEALTH**

### **1. Cuts to public health budgets**

Bromley is set to lose £921,000 through the cuts to local authorities' public health budgets announced by Chancellor George

Osborne in the summer. The Royal College of Nursing has opposed this move, maintaining that it will hit at health prevention, increase health inequalities, and end up costing the NHS more in the long run.

## 2. Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group



Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG) is working with other CCGs across South East London on a five year plan to improve local NHS and social care services. The project, known as Our Healthier South East London, is looking at six priorities:

- Community based care
- Planned care
- Urgent and emergency care
- Maternity

- Children and young people
- Cancer

BCCG held a meeting at the Central Library to ask local people about their view of health and social care services to share what works and what could be better in relation to these six priority areas.

At the CCG AGM on 21 September Dr Andrew Parson, Clinical Chair and Dr Angela Bhan Chief Officer of the CCG reviewed progress over the past year and spoke of priorities for the coming year. To the list above were added Primary care, End of Life care, and Mental Health.

**3. Healthwatch Bromley** is the local consumer champion for Health and Social Care. Their role is to gather information on patients' experiences of health and social care services in order to feed this back to commissioners and other decision makers



(for more information visit the website <http://www.healthwatchbromley.co.uk/>).

#### **4. Urgent Care Centres**

We reported in the May *Review* that the Urgent Care Centres at Beckenham Beacon and the Princess Royal University Hospital are now provided by a private company called Greenbrook Healthcare. We have subsequently learned that the 'commissioning' process, (whereby health providers, both NHS and private, bid to provide services) requires CCGs to commission what they regard as the best value for money provider, and that this is an EU regulation. NHS providers get no priority.

#### **Traffic and Parking**

During the summer there have been two very serious accidents in our local area,

one was fatal, with a motorcyclist losing his life at the junction of Lawn Road, Bridge Road and Copers Cope Road. The Council want a mini-roundabout here, but would need to close Lawn Road at the junction with Copers Cope Road. The Copers Cope councillors have decided to close Lawn Road for a trial period of 6 to 18 months and if the effect on traffic flow is not bad, it will be made permanent. There was no consultation with local residents or CCARA.

The second traffic accident was in Reddons Road, when a young child was badly injured and was taken to hospital by the air ambulance which landed in Cator Park. Our ex-President Geof Slater organised a survey among Reddons Road residents to determine what they thought might prevent such an accident in the future. The outcome was that many people favoured a 20

mile an hour speed limit. However, we are told that the police cannot prioritise enforcing such limits, so the Council is understandably reluctant to spend money introducing them.

Speeding in Kings Hall Road is a long-standing problem, and it is planned to paint yellow lines by the central refuges to stop people parking too close to them, causing blockages.

A mini roundabout has been installed at the junction of Hayne Road and Beckenham Road because of 7 serious accidents. It remains to be seen whether this will be of benefit.

The extension to the car park at New Beckenham Station is now open. A season ticket saves 30% on the day rate for parking.

The parking bays at the North side of Kent House Station are continually under-used and commuters clog up neighbouring roads

with their cars rather than pay the expensive station charges - which you can only pay by mobile phone!

Committee member Shirley Civil is campaigning to have yellow lines painted by the junction of Kent House Road and Beckenham Road opposite the Tesco Express store. When there is parking right up to the traffic lights, cars cannot use the left turn filter. This is very noticeable in the afternoon when children are being collected from the two primary schools at that location.

### **'Fix My Street'**

A reminder of this website, which makes it really easy to report issues that the Council need to attend to, for example fly-tipped material, broken paving stones, overhanging vegetation. You enter a postcode and click on an interactive map to pinpoint the problem. See <https://fix.bromley.gov.uk>

