

Wickham Common Residents' Association

Formerly Hartfield RA - Formed 25th June 1953



www.wickhamcommonra.org.uk

It is a little while since you have received our last Newsletter but behind the scenes your Committee has been very busy again looking after the interests of all the Residents, whether it is by upkeeping the rural aspect of our area or monitoring planning applications or any other development.



Our tree warden has worked very hard in having overhanging vegetation creating a hazard for pedestrians pruned, in having green verges mowed and tidied up and in ordering new trees for the area. Your committee and two residents have planted lots of bulbs in the Green at the Junction of Kingsway and Gates Green Road. The bulbs were obtained for us from LBB by Cllr Anne Manning who also arranged for a new oak sapling for the same site, which was planted last autumn. The winter bad weather was the cause of several minor accidents in the area and residents had to ask for more salt and grit to be spread on Hartfield Crescent. Though it is not on "our patch" we have also been lobbying LBB so that they would mow a path along Preston's Road to enable children to walk safely along the road on their way to and from school. We have also asked and been promised the reinstatement of green verges in front of 16 Lawrence Road.



The item which requires constant attention and on which our Planning Officer works tirelessly, are the planning applications. He not only monitors all the local applications but also those further afield which could risk endangering the peace and quiet of our area. In this way he has been instrumental in obtaining acceptable opening hours and reduction of noise for the Coney Pub in Croydon Road (A232) and he is asking for the same rules to apply for the New Inn in Hayes. He has also helped in preventing the opening of another alcohol selling premises in Coney Hall. However his hardest work has been and is in preserving our local Green Belt by monitoring and objecting to the industrial development in Layhams Road and keeping track of the Travellers' site in the same road. You can read about all planning applications on our website www.wickhamcommonra.org.uk.



We are also in constant contact with our Safer Neighbourhood Team who are doing an excellent job in keeping our area safe and crime free. They hold open meetings regularly and these are advertised on the R.A. Notice Boards in Kingsway next to the toilets and in Hartfield Crescent. Our contact is Katie Burge and she can be reached on Katie.Burge@metpolice.com. If you wish to be kept informed of any notification or warning given out by the Police you can contact her at this address and she will put you on her list of people to be informed automatically.



We are monitoring the parking by Wickham Common Primary School along with the Police, the SNT team and LBB to try and improve the situation but things are moving very slowly.



The Committee would like to thank you all for returning your subs for 2009. This money enables us to produce our newsheets, run our website, pay LBB for planning information, hold our AGM and keep our notice boards up to date.

The London Borough of Bromley is asking for '**street friends**'. Street Friends are people who are willing to report problems such as graffiti, faulty street lights, dumped vehicles, litter and many other issues in one or more roads. LBB can provide equipment, material and protective clothing. If you are interested in becoming a Street Friend just ring 020 8313 4621.



We are also in constant touch with City of London regarding the Common. We report to them any damage seen or any matter of interest. They in turn offer all sorts of walks, interesting days out and even star gazing. Please consult our Website www.wickhamcommonra.org.uk or ring **01372 279083**. City of London is keen in conserving wildlife and introducing biodiversity by regular coppicing, clearing of holly and planting heather to attract insects and other invertebrates and managing our veteran trees. They also organise volunteer's events to assist the rangers with a wide variety of tasks throughout the year. Telephone 020 8776 2343 or again, consult our Website. Residents are reminded not to dump any garden waste in the Common or put out any food for animals.

You probably do not know but this year is INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY (IYB). Biodiversity is a nationwide scheme to conserve the variety of life on our planet proposed in the 1992 summit in Rio. Each Local Authority has drawn up a local plan that identifies habitats and species under threat and contains plans to reverse their decline. There will be public events held all across the Borough on a biodiversity theme. As part of the IYB all the Residents in the Borough will be encouraged to take part in surveys of birds, trees, flowers and mammals in their area. It is hoped that many schools will participate as well as many individuals.

We are again trying to improve the surface at the top entrance of Harvest Bank Road. Some new material has been ordered and now we are waiting for some decent weather and the willingness of residents to fill in the worst holes in the road. All the material is paid for by the residents of the unmade part of Harvest Bank Road who also supply the workforce.



And though this is a long way ahead we would like to inform you that our **Annual General meeting** is booked for **June 14th** at the Assembly Halls Gates Green Road. Do try to come as there are many topics to discuss which affect us all. Also do remember to consult our Website for any up to date information: **www.wickhamcommonra.org.uk**.



By the time you receive this Newsletter the beginning of Spring should at long last be with us and the Committee wishes you all a happy time in our lovely green locality.

The Committee of Wickham Common R.A.