

May 2025

Issue 2



Welcome to our latest newsletter, the second of 2025. If you are reading a printed copy and wish to follow the underlined web links you will have to download the PDF from our website download page.

## **Bromley Updates**

### **Churchill Theatre**

Following last year's announcement of their intention to sell the Churchill Theatre site, Bromley Council has now issued a public notice to confirm the sale in accordance with the terms of the covenant that gifted the site to the people of Bromley in 1879.

The public notice is viewable at the following link:

[PUBLIC NOTICE UNDER SECTION 121\(2\) OF THE CHARITIES ACT 2011](#)

The Council are selling the freehold, rather than the leasehold as previously stated, but Trafalgar Theatres are reported to have signed an agreement with the purchasers to ensure the theatre can continue to operate, in what is expected to be a refurbished and improved theatre.

Further details and links to the original Emily Dowling Bequest Conveyance are on our website at the following link: [Theatre Sale Article](#)

### **Former Bromley Civic Centre sold to developer for £13 million**



The former Bromley Civic Campus site, including the Grade II listed Bromley Palace, has been acquired by Galliard Homes who have shared initial proposals for the site which include refurbishing Stockwell and North Blocks and converting them to 130 new apartments.

Galliard plan to do the work under a process known as a prior approval application which, if accepted by Bromley Council's planners, would avoid going before a Planning Committee.

The planning application for both buildings is on the Bromley Planning Portal with references:

[25/01755/CUETC3](#) (Stockwell Building) and [25/01756/CUETC3](#) (North Building)

Bromley Palace Park, which contains the former Civic Centre grounds, will remain open to visitors. The site is surrounded by green spaces, residential housing, and a four-storey car park, which was not included in the sale.

## Beckenham Updates

### Permit Parking Area for unmade Westgate Road

The road is considered an unadopted highway by Bromley Council which means the frontagers (owners of a property or land that directly faces a road) are responsible for maintaining it but the cost is prohibitive, especially as the road takes a lot of traffic for the school and park.

Previously the residents operated a school street on the road, which reduced school traffic, lessening wear and tear on the road and reducing the dust kicked up into homes and the school but Bromley Council voted to cut all funding for school streets across the borough in 2022.

Following pressure from residents and our Lib Dem councillors, the council has now agreed to implement a Permit Parking Area (PPA) outside and near St Mary's RC Primary School, to stop school traffic driving on to unmade Westgate Road. It is anticipated the PPA will be implemented before the start of the Autumn school term later this year. The Council has also agreed to review the yellow lines on Foxgrove Road to accommodate school drop-off. Details to follow.

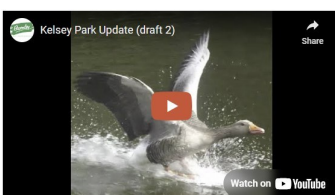
## Kelsey Park Desilting Projects

The desilting work at Kelsey Park is now virtually complete, with benefits to ducks, other birds and wildlife, with further improvement work in the park also planned.

Regular visitors at Kelsey Park in Beckenham will have seen careful synchronised digging in the lakes as part of a £2 million desilting initiative. Just under approximately 22,000 tonnes of silt has been removed from the lake, with some of the materials being retained within the park and helping landscape the banks of the lakes.

There follows a link to an article on the Bromley Council website which describes, in more detail, the work that has been carried out.

[Link to article.](#)



The article includes a link to a short video of an interview of Councillor Will Rowlands, Executive Councillor for Environment by the ex Mayor of Bromley, councillor David Jefferys. You can view the video on YouTube by clicking on the image on the left.

Links follow that will help you to keep up to date with issues affecting Bromley and Beckenham:

- The signup page to receive the regular Bromley Council newsletter: [Signup link](#)
- The signup page to receive the regular Bromley Lib Dems newsletter: [Signup link](#)
- The signup page to receive the regular newsletter of our Labour MP, Liam Conlon: [Signup link](#)
- The signup page for Bromley Conservatives Group newsletter: [Signup link1](#) [Signuplink2](#)
- The signup page for Bromley Green Party newsletter: [Signup link](#)
- The signup link for Bromley Reform Party newsletter: [Signup link](#)

## RVR Memorial Event Part 1 - Bench in memory of Leslie Tucker

On 5<sup>th</sup> April 2025 RVR committee members, councillors and those who knew RVR in the early days joined Leslie Tucker's and Paul Bennett's families to commemorate their contribution to our area and the founding of Ravensbourne Valley Residents, then called Ravensbourne Valley Preservation Society. The original name was very apt and we recalled two very significant ways these founder members and others helped to preserve the Ravensbourne Valley area. These were the objection to the David Lloyd Sports Centre scheme which would have taken away a large part of the east side of Beckenham Place Park and the preserving of a Cedar of Lebanon tree off Elstree Hill.

The group of 38 guests gathered round the bench commemorated to Leslie Tucker and funded by RVR. It is on the first field of Beckenham Place Park from the Ravensbourne Avenue entrance in a very peaceful area with an almost 360 degrees backdrop of trees and nature.



The unveiling of the bench



The plaque on the bench

Margaret Brearley, Chair of RVR, warmly welcomed everyone and then Clive Lees, Planning Officer, spoke. The following is a summary of his address.

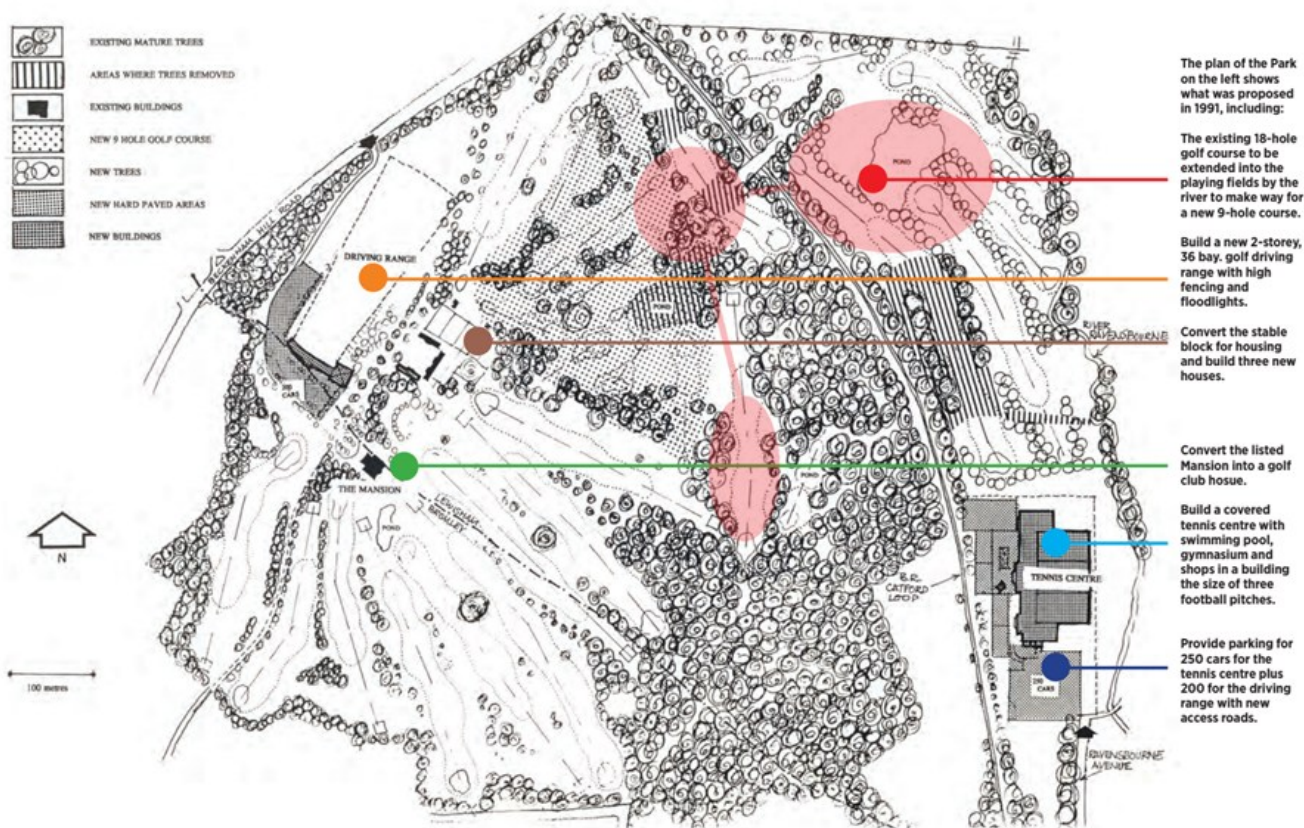
Clive recalled his treasured memories of his many conversations with Leslie and how he, Leslie, had always managed to fill them with a sparkling and ready wit, turning the most unlikely conversations into moments of laughter. Leslie could produce an intelligent joke out of nowhere and frequently did. It was a pleasure to know him.

Clive noted that the memorial bench was placed in the perfect position. Were it not for Leslie, Peter Pain and Paul Bennett, the field in which the bench now sits would have become a 250-space car park serving a massive hanger-like building to be used for indoor tennis. This was part of the early 1990's David Lloyd scheme which was refused planning permission after an 11 day Planning Inquiry, to which RVR was a leading voice.

A plan of what might have been if these efforts had not succeeded is at the top of the next page.



## BECKENHAM PLACE PARK PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT



16 RVP5 25 YEAR REVIEW

RVP5 25 YEAR REVIEW 17

The plan proposed in 1991



Some of the RVR members who attended



Leslie's family members



The former Ludgate Circus Gentleman's Sports Club at Ravensbourne Avenue. Leslie's bench is where the cricket screen is.



The former Goan sports club next to the river



## RVR Memorial Event Part 2 - Cedar in memory of Paul Bennett

Following the unveiling of the bench, those present walked to the west side of the park and gathered around the Cedar of Lebanon tree.

Monica Wiltshire then spoke about the tree. The following is a summary of her address.

Monica commented on the siting of the newly planted Cedar of Lebanon tree, a beautiful location overlooking the lake, behind the Mansion House and close to the side entrance to the Courtyard and Homestead Café. She said that it is in fact the second Cedar of Lebanon tree in commemoration to Paul Bennett. Sadly the first, planted in 2009, was lost in the 2020 Storm Dennis. The plaque was saved and restored to its former glory firstly by Matt Bennett and secondly by Dave Wiltshire.

Monica told the story of why the Cedar of Lebanon is very significant to RVR and was the original logo. In 1986 the majestic Cedar of Lebanon tree off Elstree Hill was threatened by developers. The stalwart residents, soon to be founder members of RVR, objected to this and several subsequent planning applications. The proposal for 26 flats on the site of one house (Cedarhurst), was finally whittled down to 14 houses by 1992. This was the impetus, led by Paul Bennett, which resulted in the formation of the Ravensbourne Valley Preservation Society with a membership of some 500 residents. So this imposing tree, which can be seen clearly from Warren Avenue Playing Fields and also from Leslie Tucker's bench, not only prompted the formation of RVR but also provided it with an effective training ground in which to learn some of the intricacies of the planning procedures in local authorities.



Cedarhurst house in 1992 partially demolished, and the saved cedar tree in front of it, seen from Elstree Hill



The cedar today



The cedar can be seen from Leslie's bench (but not in this photograph)

Monica voiced a very big thank you to Gavin Plaskitt from Lewisham Council for arranging both the purchase and fitting of the bench for Leslie Tucker and the purchase and planting of this tree. Also a very big thanks to John and Dolores Ealey and Paul Bennett's family for funding the Cedar of Lebanon tree.

It was then a delight to socialise with each other over refreshments in the Homestead Café. It was poignant to meet the next two generations of the founder members of RVR reminding us that the work of residents' associations in partnership with councillors can make a big difference and is a lasting legacy. We all owe them and the current officers of RVR a lot.





The planting of the original cedar tree by Paul's wife



Monica telling the stories of the original and new trees



Paul's wife and daughter by the new tree



The refurbished plaque



During the social interaction, Leslie's son mentioned that a Spitfire had crash landed in the vicinity of the bench and that Leslie's wife, Pat, had witnessed the event from her kitchen window.

The family have very kindly shared a copy of Pat's diary entry from 20th September 1959, viz:

20.09.1959

"Gave Leslie his presents & cards for his birthday. Busy painting. Beautiful autumnal day. Saw the last Spitfire crash land."

Source: 1959 diary of Patricia R. Tucker (diary no. 1959.104.PRT)



The article and photos of the event are copied from the facebook page of Bromley Gloss at the following link:

[PageLink](#)

The facebook group has many more interesting historical and current articles and pictures at the next link:

[GroupLink](#)



## Planning

### Recent Updates

Since the last newsletter, updates have been posted to our website concerning the following sites:

[64 Warren Avenue](#)

[Shortlands Station Car Park](#)

[Poor workmanship at Shortlands Station Lift Towers](#)

[85 Downs Hill](#)

[79 Coniston Road](#)

[60 Beckenham Lane](#)

[Millwall FC training ground at Calmont Road](#)

[14 Highland Road](#)

[75 Downs Hill](#)

[Shortlands Tavern Garden](#)

[20 Ravensbourne Avenue](#)

[5 Chart Close](#)

Please remember that it is essential to get planning permission before you do any building work. Amongst other planning enforcement issues, 3 loft extensions have been built without permission in the Conservation Area and are at risk of having to be demolished. Publicly available information names these properties as 100 Ravensbourne Avenue, 41 Meadow Road and 5 Chart Close. We are happy to provide guidance to members.

Clicking on any of those links will take you to the RVR website where our Planning Officer, Clive Lees, has posted some details and links to the council website planning applications pages.

Crystal Palace Football Club was given planning permission to enhance the first team's training ground on Copers Cope Road. You can view the details at the following link: [CPFC-Plans](#)

## Roads and Transport

### Bakerloo Line Extension

Transport for London (TfL) have confirmed that the multi-billion pound Bakerloo line extension to Lewisham remains on track and could eventually go as far as Beckenham and Hayes. See opposite.

### Crab Hill Refuge

Following pressure from our Lib Dem Cllrs, among others, the council's Traffic and Parking team plan to install a pedestrian refuge. The scheme is scheduled for 2026-27 and should enhance pedestrian safety, very important considering the road's incline, bend and instances of speeding.



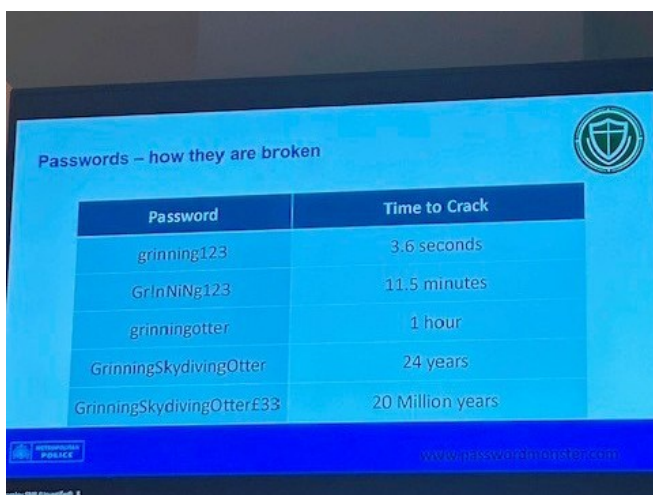


## Crime and Safety

Here is Cllr Gemma Turrell's summary of the Crime Summit that took place on 1st March, hosted by Bromley Safer Neighbourhood Board:

- “We had a presentation from the Youth Council who kindly let us know what they are up to. One priority is tackling bullying and they are producing a video regarding the effects thereof.
- We had a presentation from Southeastern regarding tackling crime on the trains.
- The Borough Commander for the Fire Brigade gave a presentation - They do home visits to people affected by domestic violence as one of the things that perpetrators of domestic violence threaten is arson. They are happy to provide information and resources and check properties of victims of domestic violence to ensure their property is as fireproof as can be.
- The Fire Brigade also do checks on properties for fireproofing as well in terms of properties where there is a smoker / flats / Vulnerable people and do checks for carbon monoxide alarms, fire alarms. These are all free services and I was informed that there is not much of a take up of these services and Ian the Borough Commander is keen to advertise these. I think it may be prudent at Residents Meetings / SNP to have someone from the Fire Service come to give a talk if you all think appropriate as it is a good thing to advertise to residents.
- We had a presentation about staying safe online from the police, they highlighted how quickly it can be for hackers to hack into emails / bank accounts etc. They advised of a website that can be used to see if your passwords have been hacked which is called: <https://haveibeenpwned.com/> You can type your email address in and see if any of your passwords have been hacked. I used it and could see the password for one of my emails have been hacked so I have duly changed all the passwords for websites related to that email address. A tidbit of information that the most used password of last year was ihearttaylorswift

Here are photos from the presentation by Superintendent Baldock with useful suggestions.



Passwords – how they are broken

Password	Time to Crack
grinning123	3.6 seconds
GrInNiNg123	11.5 minutes
grinningotter	1 hour
GrinningSkydivingOtter	24 years
GrinningSkydivingOtterE33	20 Million years

www.bromley.gov.uk



Another Councillor and I asked about speeding. Superintendent Baldock advised he thought the Borough had enough speed guns and that more officers are being trained to use them so that the borough is not left without speed monitoring in future.”

## Award for Dee Janes



As reported in our last newsletter, Dee Janes, the redoubtable lady and philanthropist in the Shortlands Station ticket office, was awarded a Mayor of Bromley's Award for Outstanding Service in the London Borough of Bromley.

The award ceremony took place on Thursday 6th. March in the evening.

Our Vice-Chair at that time, Beatrice Osborn and Chair of Shortlands Residents' Association (SRA), Mike Ricketts, attended the ceremony on behalf of RVR and SRA.

## Beckenham Place Park

The latest update on the East side improvements along with other news can be viewed at the following link:

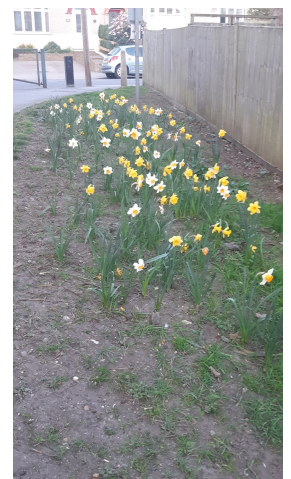
<https://beckenhamplacepark.com/news>

The park management are always looking for volunteers to help in various categories. Link to the sign up page follows: [Sign-Up-Link](#)



## RVR Street Friends

Here are pictures of the daffodils at the entrance to the Warren Avenue playing fields, which the Street Friends planted last autumn:





## Bromley Little Theatre

Bromley Little Theatre has been named **London Regional Winner** in the Muddy Stiletto Awards 2025, earning the title of **Best Arts, Culture & Theatre Venue** in the capital. This prestigious award is a reflection of the theatre's commitment to creativity, community, and excellence, and was determined entirely by public vote.



“This award is a testament to the incredible spirit and dedication of our volunteer community and supporters,” said Bruce Wallace, Chair of Bromley Little Theatre. “We’re thrilled to be recognised and excited to continue growing as a cultural hub for our Bromley community and beyond.”

National winners will be announced on 25 June 2025

## RVR Business

### RVR May Members’ Meeting

There was a large turnout of members for the May meeting to hear speeches from the then Mayor of Bromley, His Worship Dr David Jefferys, and Rev. Mark Redhouse, Vicar of Christ Church, Bromley. The minutes of the meeting will be circulated imminently. Here are couple of pictures:



## RVR Review Booklet

In case you have forgotten, posted on our website is a review of the first 25 years of Ravensbourne Valley Preservation Society (as RVR used to be known) 1987 to 2012.

You can download the review at this link: [25-Year-Review](#)

The committee plan to issue an updated version of the review and are looking to members to provide interesting articles, pictures etc. from recent years. Please send any contributions to Clive Lees ([planning.rvr@outlook.com](mailto:planning.rvr@outlook.com)) and Euan McMaster ([editor.rvr@outlook.com](mailto:editor.rvr@outlook.com))

## Meeting Dates

Members' meetings in 2025 will be held on the first Thursday, every other month, at 7:30pm at Shortlands Golf Club. All members and prospective members are welcome. The meetings normally last between 1<sup>1/2</sup> and 2 hours, with popular socialising afterwards, and focus on local community and planning issues, the latter normally illustrated by a slide show. There is usually at least one of our local councillors in attendance to answer questions and log concerns.

The bar is open during and after the meetings.

If you are registered for email delivery, you will receive minutes of completed meetings, agendas for forthcoming meetings and quarterly newsletters.

Forthcoming meetings, all at Shortlands Golf Club, are as follows:-

Members' Meetings: 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 4<sup>th</sup> September, 6<sup>th</sup> November **at 7:30 pm**

Don't forget that we post, on X (formerly Twitter), items that we believe to be relevant, interesting – and sometimes urgent, such as burst water mains and traffic problems. The link is on the right to view our posts and feel free to post items yourself if you have some news or information of interest to our members.

X Link: <https://x.com/RVResidents>



### Current Officers

Chair	Margaret Brearley	chair.rvr@outlook.com
Vice Chair	<b>Vacant</b>	vicechairman.rvr@outlook.com
Secretary	Jacqueline St Quinton	secretary.rvr@outlook.com
Treasurer	Sharon Richardson	treasurer.rvr@outlook.com
Membership Secretary	Alastair Holmes	membership.secretary.rvr@outlook.com
Planning Officer	Clive Lees	planning.rvr@outlook.com
Newsletter Editor	Euan McMaster	editor.rvr@outlook.com
Webmaster	<b>Vacant</b>	webmaster.rvr@outlook.com
Roads and Traffic	Andrew Lancaster	roadsandtransport.rvr@outlook.com
Street Friends Coordinator	Nigel Foster	trees.rvr@outlook.com
LBBR Delegate	Beatrice Osborn	<a href="mailto:lbbfrep.rvr@outlook.com">lbbfrep.rvr@outlook.com</a>
BPP Rep	<b>Vacant</b>	bpp.rvr@outlook.com
Hon. Legal Advisor	Richard Thomas	
Auditor	Jayne Nickalls	

### Road Representatives

Bracken Hill Lane and Close / Highland Road	Vanessa Redhouse
Bromley Ave / Grasmere Rd	Philip Wolfson
Calmont & Ashgrove Roads / Belgravia Gardens	Rita Smith
Coniston Road / Ullswater Close	Jane Doherty
Crab Hill / Foxgrove Road / The Avenue	Gonul Hussein
Elstree Hill / Erin Close / Hillbrow Road	Nicki Martin
Farnaby Road (1–81)	Jaki Moody
Farnaby Road (82–194)	Rosamond Eele
Madeira Avenue (Evens)	Judy Adcock
Madeira Avenue (Odds)	Anne Lancaster
Oaklands Road / Spencer Road / Hawkshead Close / Lullington Garth	Stephen Edwards
Ravensbourne Ave. (Evens)	Monica Wiltshire
Ravensbourne Ave. (Odds)	David MacKenzie
Ravensmead Road	Peter Saunders
Warren Avenue	Clive Lees
Downs Hill / Downs Bridge Road	Hadyn Davies

If you wish to contact your road rep. please email or write to the RVR Secretary : [secretary.rvr@outlook.com](mailto:secretary.rvr@outlook.com)

Or

**RVR Secretary**  
35 Downs Hill  
Beckenham  
BR3 5ET