

# ROEHAMPTON VOICE

AN INDEPENDENT SOURCE OF NEWS, BY AND FOR ROEHAMPTON RESIDENTS

ISSUE 45  
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@RoehamptonVoice



artwork by Jane Jennings

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**f Estate Art Roehampton**    ✉ [estateartsw15@gmail.com](mailto:estateartsw15@gmail.com)

## Roehampton Trust Needs Help

Roehampton Trust Ltd was launched in October 2010, starting with a Big Society grant, and with the objective of improving life in Roehampton. In April 2012 it became a registered charity and there are six trustees who meet at least twice per year. The Trust wants to be a catalyst for change: to see action rather than talk.

We have no political or religious affiliations.

Over the last 10 years there have been two main activities: publishing the quarterly newsletter Roehampton Voice and making small grants to local projects.

This is the 45h issue of Roehampton Voice. It is delivered, for free, to 6,150 Roehampton households – now by the young people of Regenerate. Over the years we have had 6 voluntary Editors and contributions from all parts of Roehampton.

We have distributed over £32,000 as small grants, not more than £1,000 each. The things that the grants have funded include camping equipment, football equipment, Roehampton foodbank, drama classes, Roehampton Festival, Christmas parties and a bench in Holybourne Avenue.

Our financial resources are almost used up and we would like to continue these two projects and maybe expand into other areas. We need volunteers to:

- obtain advertising for Roehampton Voice
  - apply for funding grants
- help editorially with Roehampton Voice
  - provide administrative support

If you are interested and can help, please contact the Chair Tim Morris, either on 07990 570785 or on [info@roehamptontrust.org.uk](mailto:info@roehamptontrust.org.uk)

## How to start a Residents' Association

by SARAH STEVENS

The Council is keen to involve residents in the management and upkeep of their blocks and estates. To achieve this they would like to see as many blocks or estates as possible represented by Residents' Associations.

Setting up a Residents' Association has many advantages, including allowing residents an opportunity to work with the council, other agencies and each other to resolve any issues of concern in their community. It also helps keep residents up to date with information and news about their homes, community and local housing services.

Having a residents' group helps build a stronger sense of community and gives residents the opportunity to organise activities and events within their block, estate and community.

### WHAT A RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION CAN DO FOR YOU:

- Access to the Council's participation structure, giving you a say in how your home is managed
- Ability to bid for funds to carry out small improvements
- Increased sense of community
- Solving local issues
- Residents can access grants and appropriate training, which will assist in the running of the association.

Please visit [wandsworth.gov.uk](http://wandsworth.gov.uk) and search for "residents' associations", or contact Miss Sarah Stevens, Resident Participation Officer, on **020 8871 5505**.

## ROEHAMPTON VOICE: ISSUE 45

### ADVERTISING

Advertising in the Roehampton Voice represents exceptional value for money. For the very reasonable rates below, you can reach 6,150 households throughout Roehampton.

### RATES

£20 for 1/8 page  
£50 for 1/4 page  
£100 for 1/2 page  
£200 for a full page

### EVENTS

Please pass us details of your events, for inclusion on our back page.

## SUBMITTING ARTICLES

The Roehampton Voice is keen to have input from as many local people as possible. If you would like to write an article for us, please email [roehamptonvoice@hotmail.com](mailto:roehamptonvoice@hotmail.com)

You can follow us on Facebook, or tweet [@RoehamptonVoice](https://twitter.com/RoehamptonVoice).

# Why is the Council neglecting the high street?

by JOHN HORROCKS

In March 1986, the borough council completely renewed the roadway in Roehampton High Street - see the plaque commemorating the scheme set in the raised bed at the junction of Roehampton Lane and the High Street. The carriageway was relaid with brick paviors and lined with metal bollards while the footpaths were laid with Marshalls Saxon paving, giving an attractive textured appearance. All very smart.



But things have seriously deteriorated since then. Pavement repairs have been carried out using the wrong sort of paving slabs, and too many of the slabs are now broken and uneven. The neglect by the council highway engineers is there for all to see. Compare this with Putney High Street, where the pavements are currently being completely renewed even though there is really nothing wrong with the existing paving!

Over four years ago, when the derelict house and shop at 5 Roehampton High Street was redeveloped with a new small

block of flats (between the King's Head and Angel pubs), the bollards and paving slabs outside this property were removed and replaced with asphalt, to make things easier for the builders. But, five years on, the bollards and paving have still not been replaced. The neglect is there for all to see.

And now comes a move by the Borough Council's planners to protect commercial premises and shops across the whole borough from a government proposal to allow these premises to be converted into dwellings without the need for a planning application. The council is proposing an 'Article 4 Direction' under planning law to maintain the council's control over the loss of these shops. It would apply in a long list of commercial locations, including all the borough's High Streets - except, that is, for Roehampton High Street! Why has our High Street been left out by the council? More neglect, maybe?

Could someone at the town hall explain why, when the council is keen to regenerate the centre of the Alton Estate, the adjoining High Street is being neglected like this? It is curious, isn't it!

## Alton regeneration – a year of silence

by JOHN HORROCKS

It is now a year since, in October 2020, the borough council granted planning permission for the scheme proposing the redevelopment of the central area of the Alton Estate - what our council likes to call "regeneration". I reported in the Spring edition of the Voice how the borough council had referred their decision to the London Mayor, Sadiq Khan, whose consent for the scheme is necessary before it can proceed. This is because it is so big. But the council was, then, saying nothing about its negotiations with the Mayor and the Greater London Authority's planners. The scheme is not compliant with the Mayor's London Plan. Would it need to be changed?

The council's Alton Regeneration Team could have used its Regeneration News to let Alton Estate residents know what is going on - but, no, they have stopped producing this newsletter! The people on the Alton Estate, especially those living in the area to be redeveloped, have every right to know what is happening - their homes and lives are bound up with the council's proposals. So, why the year of silence?

No doubt the negotiations with the GLA planners are complex. But this is no excuse for Roehampton residents to be kept in the dark like this.



## View from the Estate: *Mary*

by DEZ MENDOZA

### ***Can you tell us a bit about yourself: your interests, hopes and ambitions?***

I'm Mary. I have lived in the Alton Estate for over 15 years — schooled here, laughed here, cried here, and everything in between. I've always had a passion for poetry, technology, equality of opportunity, the environment, and dancing.

### ***What has been your experience of growing up on the Alton Estate?***

When I first came to the estate, I couldn't speak English, my family made very little money and we didn't really know anyone. 15 years later, I'm working in tech and my sister attends one of the best schools in the country. This isn't by accident.

Having a home was an anchor in a sea of chaos. No matter how bad things got, I always had a home, so I could study, and I could get a job. Without social housing, I couldn't have thrived.

My experience has made me passionate about equality of opportunity and making sure disadvantaged people can realise their potential. But it's also made me realise how lucky I am to have entered the social housing market years ago; it's so much harder now.

### ***We are currently living through a global pandemic. Do you feel this has brought the community together, or is there a sense of crisis?***

The estate is slowly recovering its spirit — but at a cost. Truth is, the estate struggled before the pandemic, with many youth centres closed, reduced essential services (i.e., police, transport) and the decay of the buildings. As the people who fought for quality services moved on, the people who remained carried on with their lives as these problems persisted. And so,

the neglect washed away the sense of community that existed before. Lockdown has been lonely but I'm one of the luckier ones. It's the older people I feel most sorry for. To the older people who live alone in the estate, loneliness is almost as bad as the disease. A neighbour who had lived here for a long time died, but we only found out a few months later. Another neighbour rarely leaves the house anymore. Another has lost so much weight since the pandemic she is almost too weak to walk down the stairs. It's so heartbreaking to see. However, the pandemic has forced the estate to finally pay attention to its problems. Alton Action's creation of a People's Plan for the estate is the first time I've seen the community fighting for its future in years.

***We have an abundance of green space on the estate, but it is rarely utilised by residents due to imposed limitations on its use. How do you feel about this?***

We have beautiful green space in Roehampton. During several walks around the estate between July 2018 and November 2020, I took pictures when these green spaces were not being respected and turned it into a song called "It's My Land". This song is a response to the social and environmental degradation of the estate.

The lyrics go:

*It's my land  
Oh, it's my home  
I don't understand  
There's nowhere to roam*

*You infiltrate my zone  
With your lovely empty smiles  
You tear away my throne  
And throw it in the pile*

*My brother's lost his limbs  
All that's left is bone  
He never once sinned  
Innocence etched in stone*

*It's my land  
Oh, it's my home  
I don't understand  
There's nowhere to roam*

**What impact would you say the closures of youth centres and community spaces has had on Alton Estate residents?**

It's been devastating. There is almost nothing to do as a young person here. Where are the jobs, sports clubs and activity centres? I do worry that the young people are turning to crime to feel like they belong. As they say in Africa, "A child who is not embraced by the village will burn it down to feel its warmth."

**What would you like to see more of, to positively engage and strengthen the community?**

The estate has guts, spirit and fountains of hope — but we need to get the basics right first. We need quality services; we need community facilities; we need our residents' voices championed in council meetings.

**What positive changes would you like to bring to the estate (whether this is better facilities for residents, or redesign of housing)?**

We need quality community, youth, sports and mental health services. We need to fix problems with existing residents' homes regarding damp and boilers not working. Disabled residents, young people and older people need to have better access to facilities.

**How would you describe the Alton Estate to someone who has never heard of it or visited it before?**

It has its flaws but has been a sanctuary for some of the poorest in our society. And like a child, the estate needs to be valued, supported and nurtured to realise its potential. I don't know where I'd be without the estate.

# Medfield Street in bloom

In the previous edition of the Roehampton Voice there was an article by Steve Fannon regarding the Medfield Street fountain and whether more could be done to make it better maintained. He compared it with other similar fountains which had been decorated with flowers. Since then, various members of the community have made a vast improvement to the fountain by planting flowers within the fountain and troughs.



This was initially a suggestion by Rev Joshua Rey of Holy Trinity Church. It was part of the greening project during Roehampton Community Week. The work was done by Community Shed, Cllrs Gilbert and Ambache, Jo Baxter, Putney Garden Club, Val Jones, Tony Arthur, Vicky Pigott and other local residents. The idea was to brighten up the area and make this central point pleasing for anyone driving or walking past. It drew a great deal of interest from all who walked by. Vicky would like to give a big thank you for all that took part and the local garage across the road that supplied the water for the plants.



# Update on the Roehampton Partnership

by Cllr JEREMY AMBACHE

## What is the Roehampton Partnership (RP)?

The RP is made up of local organisations, community groups and individuals who are focused on improving the wellbeing of the Roehampton community. We have people from Residents' Associations, the local Police, various faith groups, Roehampton University and local businesses, as well as GPs, a Youth representative and Roehampton ward councillors.

## What are we aiming to achieve?

By working together we seek to influence the development and delivery of the Council's Regeneration programme and other developments to improve life in Roehampton. Up till last year the Council was represented on the RP, but the Conservative councillors decided to withdraw. Everyone else decided to continue their representation on the RP. Having a strong voice for Roehampton residents and local organisations was considered important by us all - especially at a time when regeneration is planned for the Alton Estate, and following so many delays and problems with the plans.

## Progress on the Alton Regeneration

We continue to monitor the work of the Council on the long-planned Regeneration of the Alton Estate, and make the views of local people voiced and taken into account. We meet the week before the Council Housing and Regeneration Committee so that we can comment (and seek to influence) the latest plans on the regeneration.

At the time of writing, the most recent Council plans (agreed by the Council's Planning Committee in October 2021) are being discussed and negotiated between Wandsworth Council managers and the GLA planners. This has been going on for several months!

## Improved travel and transport

We are examining how to improve transport in the Roehampton area. This includes considering what will be needed if there is a planned increase in the local population of some 2,000 people. We are campaigning for: (a) the repairs and improvements to Hammersmith Bridge be undertaken so that this important route can be fully

reopened; (b) increases in buses in the rush hour; (c) better cycle storage and better dedicated cycling routes; and (d) better pedestrian options to encourage walking.

## Support for My Roehampton and the Community week

All the organisations that form the RP have supported the "My Roehampton" project led by Jonathan Palma (known as JP). We helped set up the Covid-19 Roehampton Response Network, which has played an important part in getting many organisations (especially schools and youth projects) to work together so as to support the community through the various lockdowns. We participated in the successful Roehampton Community Week in early July. We are supporting followup for the Roehampton Community Week for all sections of the community - young and old - and the myriad of activities and projects involved.

## RP Website

The Roehampton Club and University are providing administrative support for the running of the RP. The Roehampton Club has also kindly agreed to fund our website. This will have all our RP papers on it and encourage feedback and suggestions from the community. Additionally, the website can be used by Roehampton community groups to advertise their activities and events. Getting information and engaging with Roehampton residents is an important challenge. We will also seek to put information in the Library and in the Roehampton Voice.

## Roehampton Business Association

We are planning to bring together local businesses to ensure they get the best deal possible out of the changes during the Regeneration period.

If you are a business and want to get involved, please contact Marc Newey on [Marc.Newey@roehamptonclub.co.uk](mailto:Marc.Newey@roehamptonclub.co.uk)

## In Conclusion

Please get in touch and let us know your views! We are planning to go back to holding local meetings accessible to all (subject to safety/Covid rules). We hope that our next meeting on 15th November at 7pm will be open to the public, so if you want to attend you will need to book a place in advance by contacting me. My Email is [Jambache@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:Jambache@wandsworth.gov.uk) and my mobile 07828 132 814.

# Perhaps U R Listening?

by ALEX GAUTIER

I read Mr Hurley's Message From Roehampton University in the Summer edition of Roehampton Voice (pages 12 and 13) and was pleased that it gave encouraging news. I went on the [roehampton.ac.uk/news](http://roehampton.ac.uk/news) site hoping to find information about lectures or meetings that local residents might attend, but I didn't find any. Perhaps they could have a page for residents in the neighbouring communities, listing events that might be of interest?

All the same, in the message and the news site, RU's Dr Sara Houston is leading a research project, Dance for Parkinson's, in partnership with the English National Ballet. I think a lot of people would be very interested if she gave a talk to residents in the local neighbourhood on the subject. I would like to hear what she has to say about the project and how it is developing.

Also on the RU news website, RU was involved in the Coda Digital Dance Workshop on July 6th and 7th for Roehampton Community Week. When I clicked on the link about Jonnie Peacock, our medal winning Paralympian, I was really impressed to see that RU has provided assistance to Jonnie, truly an English hero, to evaluate how best to help the young amputees he guided to achieve their sporting goals which was reported on by the BBC. Wouldn't it be great if someone at RU were to give a talk to us neighbours about what they did and how it helped?

In other news, our deputy editor Dez Mendoza recently attended the Roehampton Community Roadmap workshops, organised by Jonathan Palma (Roehampton Community Capacity Building Project Lead). At the workshop Dez was particularly encouraged by the contribution of Dr Simon Bayly, Head of Engagement at RU School of Arts. This chance encounter seems both fortuitous and exciting and could be an excellent opportunity to engage with the residents neighbouring RU campuses - particularly as Dr. Bayly seemed keen to progress RU's involvement with the community.

Some of the things I have learned through reading the message and the RU news website have been truly inspiring and I am hoping that, as the shadows of Covid start to fade, the stars will align to create a new and exciting relationship with Roehampton University, our neighbour.



## 66 Alton Road

by STEVE FANNON

Well, the third planning application for 66 Alton Road (2021/3059) landed recently, and there were quite a few objections raised. Some of you may remember that planning applications 2017/3082 and 2018/5671 were both withdrawn. This time there was an application to amend the inside of the building to create 4 flats, and at the back erect a 3-storey building containing 9 further flats.

This building is within the Alton Conservation Area and was locally listed in 2010. Clearly building on Conservation land raises the very real risk of other conservation land being built on (for instance, the area opposite Whitelands College on Holybourne Avenue).

The plan fails to provide any details regarding what the 4 flats will be: for instance, 1-bed flats or 3-bed flats? The planning application's photos of the surrounding area misleadingly show the old Pocklington Court rather than the building works now taking place on that site. There is no increase to car parking for the 4 flats, and none provided for the 9 flats. (Bear in mind that Roehampton Lofts was recently built nearby, which was 6 two-bed flats with no car parking.) The constant increase in population with ongoing question marks regarding transport must be considered, especially as the regeneration planning application has been agreed by the Council and will one day be grabbing our attention as the London Mayor makes his views known on it.

Hopefully you have made your comments on the planning application known. If not, Cllr Claire Gilbert is on the Council's Planning Application Committee where this will likely be discussed, and it might be worth contacting her to provide your views (and get your comments in on the planning application if not too late).

## AGE WELL ROEHAMPTON

*For residents over 55 living in Roehampton*

### WEEKLY ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

#### MONDAY

##### SILVER SURFERS

Technical support with Phones and Laptops:

**1pm to 3pm.**

Please phone or email to book in advance.

**Venue: Minstead Gardens Sheltered Housing Clubroom.**

#### TUESDAY

##### CREATIVE WRITING –

no experience needed, relaxing and therapeutic – just bring a notepad and pen. Very friendly and informal; includes relaxation and mindfulness.

**10.30am to 12pm.**

**Venue: Minstead Gardens Sheltered Housing Clubroom**

#### THURSDAY

##### DANCE EXERCISE with

Lise Marie – come kick your heels on the **last Tuesday of the month, 2:30pm**

**at Minstead Gardens Sheltered Housing Clubroom. Fun and sociable, no partner needed.**

Next dates: **28th September. 26th October. 30th November. 21st December.**

**CHAIR YOGA** with Lisa Jane – two sessions.

First session **10am**; second session **11am.**

**Venue: Minstead Gardens Sheltered Housing Clubroom** £4 per class.

#### FRIDAY NEW\*

##### OPEN HOUSE –

invitation to speak to me about joining and of existing, seasonal and future activities. In the new year we hope to include talks on subjects you may find helpful: Diabetes, COPD, Dementia, Mysteries of Mobile Phones and possibly Flower Arranging.

**Venue: Roehampton Library on the first Tuesday in the month.**

Feel free to drop in!  
Next Dates: **1st October, 5th November, 3rd December, 7th January 2022**

##### In Addition:

Join our monthly leisurely walks held on the **First Tuesday of the Month 1pm.**

Jenny Bailey:

**07826 779 684**

Contact me for the meeting point.  
[jenny.bailey@hestia.org](mailto:jenny.bailey@hestia.org)



# Community, togetherness and happiness

by DEZ MENDOZA

AN INTERVIEW WITH JANE JENNINGS AND LYNNE CAPOCCIAMA ON THE POWER OF CREATIVITY AND COLLABORATION THROUGH ART

Roehampton Voice met talented artist Jane Jennings to discuss her work as part of the Alton Pop-Up Panel of Art, which we have selected for the cover of this issue. Jane is a Year 2 teacher at Roehampton Church School.

## *What was your inspiration for this piece?*

I wanted to create something upbeat that represented coming out of lockdown and the community coming together. My design is based around pictures of the estate and housing, and in particular the library, which I have collaged together in the background. I also wanted to include positive newspaper headlines and articles about community, including an article from Roehampton Voice about my sister Lynne. The collages are painted over with neon paints in a sunburst style, with the silhouettes of 6 people jumping, dancing and holding hands. I chose 6 people intentionally because of the rule of 6 – the idea of togetherness and being united.

## *There is a lot of joy, movement and energy in the image...*

Yes – after lockdown ended, lots of our children were like this in the playground – dancing and singing together because they were so happy to see each other again. They loved being outside and being able to play together. During lockdown they had really



missed each other's company and being able to interact with one another; many of the children hadn't been able to connect remotely via Zoom or the internet, so being able to meet in person was hugely beneficial to them.

## **Local Roehampton schools were invited to contribute a panel to the pop-up exhibition – can you tell us about the artwork created by the children at Roehampton Church School?**

We set up a competition in the school – each child was asked to design something that represented “community, togetherness and happiness”, and we picked one design from each year group, from nursery all the way up to Year 6. The children whose designs were chosen were given a section of the panel which they painted themselves; they all had a story behind what they drew and why they drew it. One boy told me that really liked going for walks on the common with his dad and he has drawn the birds

that they see – including a falcon! Another shows a girl and her mum walking to school together and feeling happy about seeing her friends again. The Year 2 section represents local people and buildings – the girl who designed this has painted the post office, the Co-op, the school and the church, and she has also included the postman, someone who works at Asda, an NHS nurse, her parents and friends... all the things which form part of our community. There is a section of the panel describing “Unity in the Community” by using different coloured bricks to represent connection and togetherness. Three of the sections on the panel include rainbows, which are symbolic of hope and better times to come.

[During the lockdown, rainbows have become a way of showing solidarity and gratitude to those working in the NHS and the communities that have supported each other throughout the Covid pandemic.]







**Community Champion Lynne Capocciana is the dynamic energy and inspiration behind Estate Art, a non-profit organisation set up to support the community of Roehampton.**

**The Alton Pop-Up Panel of Art exhibition is your most recent community-led public art project. Can you tell us about the history and motivation for creating Estate Art?**

I really wanted to find a way of supporting the residents of Roehampton where I live. During lockdown it felt as though the community was becoming isolated. I wanted to find a way to bring them together, by doing lots of community-based projects that supported isolated people and the mental wellbeing of residents in and around Roehampton.

I have now set up Estate Art as a company – a non-profit organisation, to support the community and help people with their mental health and

wellbeing. The Alton Pop-Up Panel was funded by Roehampton Community Week and Wandsworth Council.

**The site where the pop-up exhibition is displayed has been designated for demolition, with many of the residents and local shops having vacated the building; it seems very significant to have this exhibition here, in the heart of the community.**

The site for the exhibition is in front of a rundown building which no longer has much use and has become an eyesore; because there is very little activity here, it doesn't give people a sense of positivity or belonging to the area they live in. Instead of empty shops, which are open to vandalism, I wanted to reclaim the space - to use it creatively to brighten up the estate; to give Roehampton a sense of identity and vitality, and to engage the community. The pop-up panel exhibition is an uplifting visual experience which promotes

positive mental health and wellbeing for the viewer, and for the artists involved – all of whom are local and live on or around the estate. Creativity allows people to express themselves and connect with their community, which is what Estate Art is all about. The artwork has been created on recycled window panels; I saw them being discarded and instead of putting them in a landfill, I saw an opportunity to reuse them as perfect canvases for inspirational artwork.

I asked local artists to design images for the square panels, and contacted the schools in the area to creatively engage younger children in collaborative artwork for the long panels. The artwork tells the story of where we live and what life has been like for us, particularly during the pandemic. It's really a story of people coming together to support one another and what our community means to us.

Estate Art will hopefully be auctioning the artwork displayed in the future.

**What projects are coming up next for Estate Art?**

The next exhibition will be in support of women who have been subjected to domestic violence – something which we have sadly seen increase during lockdown. The exhibition will raise awareness about **White Ribbon Day** [as part of the global White Ribbon movement to end male violence against women] and will be on display in the Kings Head, The Angel and The Green Man.

**Are you creative and feel you would like to participate in exhibitions in and around the community?**

**Please contact Estate Art at [estateartsw15@gmail.com](mailto:estateartsw15@gmail.com) for more information**



**Dr Zoe Rose**

Primary qualifications:  
BM (1998) DRCOG DFFP MRCGP  
Qualified from Southampton in 1998  
& joined the practice in 2005.  
Dr. Rose is a GP Partner and has  
experience of working in healthcare  
commissioning and with public health.



**Dr Farwa Hasan** with local MP for Putney, Southfields and Roehampton F. Anderson

GP Partner & Trainer  
Clinical Tutor – Faculty of Medicine,  
Imperial College London.  
Primary Qualification: MBBS (2010) MRCGP,  
PG Cert (Medical Education), FHEA,  
Return to training Champion, South London  
– School of GP, Health Education England

appointments are in addition to those offered by your GP, increasing access to care. In West Wandsworth we have the following additional professionals working in the surgeries:

**Physician Associates:** healthcare professionals with a generalist medical education who work alongside GP's. They can help you with many of the problems that your GP can, and work under the supervision of your own GP.

**First contact Physiotherapists** offer appointments to assess and offer advice about joint or muscle problems. You can book an appointment directly through the surgery and do not need a referral from your GP.

**Social prescribers** offer appointments to support people to improve their health and wellbeing, often through involvement in community groups and networks.

**Clinical Pharmacists** offer appointments to discuss medication and can often support you in managing your health conditions.

The PCN also supports Queen Mary's Hospital, and through working with other local practices provides additional GP appointments there that can be booked through your surgery. Queen Mary's Hospital is now providing COVID vaccinations for our patients. The practices will work together over the coming months to ensure that everyone eligible gets the all-important Flu vaccination.

A priority for the PCN is the early diagnosis of cancer. During the pandemic many have delayed screening tests such as cervical smears, so we are working hard to make sure everyone has an opportunity to have these crucial tests.

The West Wandsworth PCN is led jointly by two Clinical Directors: Dr Zoe Rose (Putney Group Medical Practice) and Dr Farwa Hasan (The Alton Practice).

**Further information on PCNs can be found on the NHS England website:**  
[www.england.nhs.uk/primary-care/primary-care-networks/](http://www.england.nhs.uk/primary-care/primary-care-networks/)

# West Wandsworth Primary Care Network

by **TESSA SHIELDS, WEST WANDSWORTH PCN MANAGER**

## WHAT IS A PRIMARY CARE NETWORK?

A Primary Care Network, or PCN, is a group of GP practices working closely together, alongside other healthcare professionals and voluntary sector organisations. They provide care to their local communities by offering a wider range of collaborative services within one area.

What are Primary Care Networks designed to do?

PCNs have been created to serve local communities of around 30,000 to 50,000 patients. They are small enough to provide the personal care valued by both patients and GPs, but large enough to have impact and economies of scale through better integration between practices and others in the local health and social care system.

PCNs are key to bringing practices together to work at scale. Their funding provides the opportunity to recruit a more diverse skill mix into general practice, through recruitment of roles such as Physician Associates, First Contact Physiotherapists, Social Prescribers and Practice Pharmacist support.

## WHICH PRACTICES MAKE UP OUR PRIMARY CARE NETWORK?

The West Wandsworth PCN consists of 4 practices, which are:

- **Danebury Avenue Surgery**
- **Putney Group Medical Practice**
- **The Alton Practice**
- **The Roehampton Surgery**

The West Wandsworth PCN are passionate about their work and the community they serve. The practices know that sometimes the people they see at their clinics need more than they can offer, so they have teamed up to make sure they can offer the best possible support using all the skills in the local health system. Local practices work together for the improvement of health and wellbeing in the individuals, families, and communities they serve. They value each person regardless of their unique difference and seek to offer services without any level of discrimination.

## WHAT A PCN MEANS TO YOU

New healthcare professionals with specialist skills have been recruited to work in the local surgeries. These

# An A-Choir-ed Taste

by **SIMONE FARR**

Happy Days Are Here Again for local 60+ choir "An A-Choir-ed Taste", who are delighted to finally be singing together once more! Lockdown restrictions were tough on members who really missed their weekly singing sessions, run by the Community Development Team, Elaine Curley and Simone Farr. New members are welcome, and no experience is necessary: this is very much a group who just enjoy singing for fun. The group meets at St Joseph's Church every Monday from 1pm to 2pm.

Community Development also runs Line Dancing, and beginners meet at Newlands Hall on the Putney Vale Estate each Tuesday at 12.15pm. For those wanting more gentle exercise, Tai Chi is also on offer and takes place at the Minstead Gardens Church at 2pm each Tuesday.

Anyone who would like further information about any of the above groups, or the 6-weekly Book Club also on offer, please contact Elaine Curley on **07956 248 057** or **Simone.farr@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk**



*Some members of "An A-Choir-ed Taste" on a recent visit to Polhill Garden Centre*

## Roehampton Rocks Around the Clock!

by **SIMONE FARR**



*Members of Roehampton's 60+ Café were "Rockin' around the Clock" this month, at an outstanding performance by the Rah Rah Theatre Company.*

The show whisked the audience back to the 1950s, reminiscing about the struggles of teenage love, and everyone sang along to memorable tunes of the era such as "Living Doll", "Why Must I Be a Teenager in Love" and of course "Rock around the Clock".

The afternoon was organised by the Volunteers from the 60+ Café and supported by the Community Development Team at WBC. The café is a warm and friendly meeting space which provides lovely food and drinks and fun activities for older people. It meets every Thursday lunchtime at Minstead Gardens Church in Roehampton, and new members are always very welcome.

# Roehampton White Ribbon Campaign

by VICKY PIGOTT

Every year thousands of people stand up, speak out and say no to violence against women and girls. This is an international campaign, and Wandsworth has a history of being very active in it. The White Ribbon pledge is:

*"Never commit, excuse, or remain silent about male violence against women and girls"*

The Roehampton ward has one of the highest rates of domestic abuse in Wandsworth Borough. We want to show that residents are willing to stand up to this challenge.

Roehampton Women's Network, made up of residents, services, charities and Cllr Claire Gilbert, is organising several events during the 2-week campaign starting 25th November. The Network is also part of the dynamic Roehampton Response Network, which recently organised Roehampton Community Week.

A torch parade supporting White Ribbon Campaign will be organised for 25th November at 6pm. Meet beside the outdoor gallery on Danebury Avenue. Bring a torch or your mobile phone.

There will be a chance to write your positive message on a label attached to a white ribbon, which we will display in Roehampton. Women and girls need to be safe on the streets and in their home. All are welcome.

We are also joining with Chelsea Kicks football club on the Lennox Estate on 2nd December and at Witley Point on 3rd December. Each session runs 6-8pm. Roehampton's very own Regenerate youth charity is taking part. It is vital to get the message across to young people for gender equality in the future, women and girls are half the UK population.

According to the United Nations, violence against women means "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life". Wandsworth Safety Net has an excellent site on domestic abuse during the Covid-19, providing local helplines and resources. Search for "wandsworth domestic abuse Covid". A free download app called Bright Sky gives all the support services and how to get help in 5 different languages.

Last but not least, a fantastic new service has started for Roehampton families: a free family law advice and help clinic, 3 times a month. This covers issues around domestic abuse, child contact, non-molestation orders, matrimonial law and divorce. For help applying and getting an appointment, contact Citizens Advice in Roehampton or email Cllr Claire Gilbert on [clairegilbert77@gmail.com](mailto:clairegilbert77@gmail.com)

**See you on 25th November at 6pm.**



# Roehampton Community Week

by AISHA JALLOH

Roehampton welcomed its very first week-long series of community events this summer: Roehampton Community Week (RCW), which took place 5-11 July 2021.

RCW originated from members of the Roehampton Response Network facilitated by Jonathan Palma (JP) from Citizens Advice Wandsworth. It took eight long months to prepare. The event was originally initiated as a Covid-19 "bounce back" event, to lift spirits and create unity within the community after what had transpired from the hardships caused by the Coronavirus pandemic.

"GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO BRING OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER..."

The week commenced on Monday 5th July with an official launch: the "Alton pop-up panel of art", an opening of the outdoor gallery located in Danebury Avenue. The gallery was created and hosted by Estate Art, a local organisation run by resident Lynne Capocciana that supports expression through art within the community.

100% OF ATTENDEES RATED RCW AS ABOVE AVERAGE

The launch event saw a great turnout, and set the standards for the entire week. Many residents and notable community leaders attended RCW. "I am delighted to support the Roehampton Community Week, as it is a great opportunity to bring our community together after the difficulties of the last year. It is only by all the groups coming together that we can build long term impact," said the former Mayor of Wandsworth, Jane Cooper.

"IT WAS GREAT TO SEE SO MANY PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS..."



The week involved Roehampton University staff, such as Jenny Ilsley, who remarked, "It was great to see so many people from different backgrounds. I love the dance display at the Women's Inspirational event. The variety of sessions on offer all week was very good and there really was something for everyone. Hope it continues every year!" RCW had something for people of all ages and backgrounds to join in with, including women's self-defence classes, art workshops, gardening activities, children and youth sporting activities, inspirational talks, over 60's exercise classes, infant messy play, environmental care activities and so much more.

## CHILDREN'S PLANTING ACTIVITY

The event was funded from generous donations from Roehampton University, Roehampton Club, AELTC, Ibstock Place, and Rackets Cubed. It was run in partnership with Wandsworth Council.

"SHOWS THERE IS A STRONG DESIRE TO BUILD A THRIVING, COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY"

The NHS also played an instrumental role in the success of the week, as a number of health services were made available at the event, which was a great help for isolated residents who would usually not have access to these services.

100% of attenders rated RCW as above average, with over 65% of those attenders rating the event a 10/10. RCW was a triumph and will hopefully become a tradition. "The community week has made me feel really proud of Roehampton, and shown there is a strong desire to build a thriving, collaborative community," said a local resident.





RCW has been a successful and inspiring occasion in Roehampton. The week saw 37 community events in 7 days, an attendance totalling 1,800, involvement from 48 organisations, schools, and groups, 3 refurbished communal areas, 1 outdoor gallery and over £60,000 fundraised. The event managed to change narratives, improve the health and wellbeing of local residents and prove to local and national services and organisations that it is possible to engage successfully with Roehampton and its residents.

We would like to take this opportunity to once again thank everyone who was involved in this momentous occasion: our funders, Wandsworth Council, local Councillors, and all the residents and communities who got involved to support their communities in this tough and challenging time.



# Roehampton Community Week: Giving a voice to the voiceless

by HINA USMAN



*I have lived in Roehampton for 4 years. I am a parent and member of the Ahmadiyya Community who supports local women and communities in Roehampton.*

*I became part of Roehampton Community Week after speaking to local artist Jackie Mwanza (Ubuntu Museum) who told me to talk to Jonathan Palma (Citizens Advice Wandsworth). JP is the man behind bringing many Roehampton residents/groups together, making a real difference in the area, especially with people who have never had the opportunity to be heard and encouraged.*

*As an artist myself, I wanted to run an event to help young children learn more about fashion, explore their creativity and produce their own unique masterpieces. With JP's support we talked through and planned the event, applied for insurance and funding and worked with the Council to find a venue (Portswood Place) - all things I hadn't really done before. Throughout the process I grew in confidence and excitement; telling the people in the community about it gave me such pride. In return, many people said how great it was that someone like me was representing the community. I also attended and spoke at the Roehampton Response Network meetings for the first time, which further enhanced my voice in the community. I am looking forward to working on more projects in Roehampton and beyond.*

*For me Roehampton Community Week was a great example of giving local people who don't usually feel part of the wider community a chance to display their talents and skills, and at the same time help build stronger communities. Feeling supported, knowing my children are proud of me and feeling a sense of accomplishment has given me more determination to help the community and also strive for a better life for my family. If you have any questions or would like to talk about helping the community please contact Hina - [ghanihinausman@gmail.com](mailto:ghanihinausman@gmail.com)*

# 100 Years at Roehampton

by GILLY KING

2021 marks the centenary of Froebel College being at Roehampton. Roehampton University as we know it today evolved from four separate female teacher training colleges with long and unique histories. Whitelands College opened in 1841; first located on the King's Road in Chelsea, the college moved to Putney in 1930 and subsequently moved to Roehampton in 2005. Southlands College opened in Battersea in 1872; from 1927 it was located in the Burlington Hotel, Dover prior to moving to Wimbledon Parkside in 1930. Southlands moved to a bespoke campus in Roehampton in 1997. Digby Stuart College, originally known as Wandsworth College, opened in 1874 and its first permanent home was in Wandsworth. In 1905 the college moved to St Charles College, North Kensington, and was renamed "St Charles". It moved to Roehampton Lane in 1946 and became Digby Stuart College. Froebel College, originally



*This is the only known image, taken in 1933, of "the bungies" situated on the lawn between the house and lake*

known as the Froebel Educational Institute, opened in 1892 in West Kensington, and moved to the Grove House Estate, Roehampton in 1921. Froebel College is the youngest of the four colleges but has been part of the Roehampton community for the longest. In August 1921, Dr Claude Montefiore bought the freehold of Grove House with 33 acres of land for £29,750. He was acting on behalf of the Froebel Educational Institute. The move was instigated by the Principal, Miss Esther Lawrence, who wished to expand the college. Grove House had been used as a base for the Royal Flying Corps during WWI, and by 1921 was in a somewhat dilapidated state. Extensive work had to be carried out, so the move from West Kensington to Roehampton was not completed until January 1922.



*In February 1923 the college's new premises were visited by Queen Mary*

Many of the students were accommodated in "the bungies" (bungalows), which were temporary buildings erected in 1921. The journal *Architect* (Dec. 1921) reported, "By careful standardisation in every part, and above all by efficient organisation and team work on the part of the contractors and subcontractors [understood to be Canadian lumberjacks], and the willingness on the men's part to work both by day and night...the whole of the work was completed and eighty students were in occupation of the study bedrooms in exactly three weeks from the date of starting."

The college archive holds fascinating images of the new college circa 1925, which illustrate that the last 100 years have seen many changes, but the historic beauty of the site remains unchanged.

In 2021, Froebel College is home to the Department of Education (renowned for being one of Britain's major centres for Initial Teacher Training), and the Department of Dance, with excellent theatre, studios and recording facilities. The academic year 2019/20 started with much excitement when Roehampton University welcomed its first-ever student nurses. Over the summer of 2019 a bespoke Clinical Simulation Centre was constructed in Froebel College. This Centre is the University's newest teaching environment and is designed to simulate various clinical and community environments.

*With thanks to Dr Peter Weston and the Froebel College archives*

**Roehampton University's first cohort of student nurses**



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