

## **Chairman's Report**

### **Wimbledon Park Hall**

**I bear glad tidings. Contracts have been exchanged for Wimbledon Park Hall. This seeming miracle took place at the end of March after a sudden furious burst of activity. Only five years have elapsed since the hall was closed. Onwards and upwards.**

### **Centenary celebration**

**Some of you may be wondering why the WPRA has decided to adopt 2008 as the Centenary year for Wimbledon Park (WP) since, quite obviously, WP was not built in a year! The establishment of two key centres of the community in 1908, namely St Luke's Church and the Primary school, is a bit of a hint. Also in the early 1900's the development of WP had moved swiftly ahead under the auspices of mainly Messrs Ryan and Penfold and by 1908 the majority of the area we know as WP today was built.**

**According to Bernard Rondeau's immensely useful book, 'Wimbledon Park from Private Park to Residential Suburb' (copies still available from the Pharmacy in Arthur Road) some of the earliest urban development was in Vineyard Hill Road and Home Park Road, North of Arthur Road, between 1890 and 1895.**

**In 1892 there were two houses in Home Park Road, South of Arthur Road, one of which later became a Nursery and subsequently, in the early part of this century, was sold and developed into modern town houses now known as Lynx Terrace. Kenilworth Road, Dora Road and Home Park Road were mostly built between 1900 and 1910. Certainly by 1907 the majority of the grid had been built by Messrs Ryan and Penfold (from whose original sign the WPRA logo was adopted).**

**Despite the 100 or so years that have elapsed and the inevitable amount of conversions and redevelopment, WP still largely retains its Edwardian charm and character.**

**A trend towards more modern buildings is evident, particularly at the lower end of Arthur Road. Now that contracts have been exchanged between the developer and the Council for Wimbledon Park Hall, a further addition to those modern buildings will be created and the real business of creating a new 'centre' of the community can commence.**

**So, in celebrating our Centenary in 2008 we also celebrate the fact that WP still thrives and grows as a community and is busy laying firm foundations for the next 100 years.**

**We have a great event planned for the 14th June, so come and join us at the Athletic Stadium in our wonderful Park and, together, we can celebrate our good fortune. *Iain Simpson***