

## Wandsworth

EDITION 28

26 SEPTEMBER 2020



I think love is like central heating. You turn it on before guests arrive and pretend it's like this all the time.

What do colour-blind people do when they are told to eat their greens?

### IN THIS ISSUE

- **Traffic now calming?**
- **The Scrap Project**
- **Heavy reading**
- **Merton Priory**
- **Wise Words**
- **A smile or two**

### NEWSLETTER TEAM

Don Brind and Peter Martin are keen to hear from you

Please email us at

u3anewswands@gmail.com

PM: 020 8672 8150  
DB: 020 8673 1116

## ROUTE 24: LTNs AND THE CYCLE SUPERHIGHWAY

Through my door today came a leaflet from the Conservative Party calling on the London Mayor "to remove Labour's disruptive A24 changes". It tells us that "local Conservatives have listened to residents and removed the LTNs [Low Traffic Neighbourhoods] that were creating havoc". (Interesting admission!) So, we have perhaps got rid of the gridlocks and now ambulances can get through the traffic but we still have barriers stopping parking outside shops; we still have bus stops almost in the middle of the road (and distanced from the shelters – winter is coming!); and the protest posters are still up in shopkeepers' windows. Two members reacted to the story we featured last week. Please tell us of your experiences.

David P writes: The real issue is with how the council has handled the engagement and communication with residents. It has done so poorly with regard to these street changes and is currently running the very real risk that central government via TfL claws back the funds spent to date, as they haven't delivered on the policy under the terms of the funding that the council itself bid for. It's no secret that there are major issues with traffic congestion and air pollution in the borough and elsewhere, but for too long PR has gone before meaningful action. By withdrawing the scheme before new traffic patterns have emerged, the result may be that residents not only end up out of pocket but that we will still have the problems of pollution locally and heating the planet globally – and the rat-running will continue.

SteveK writes: There is exactly the same confusion about a LTN trial in Stockwell, which affects the A3 between Stockwell station and Clapham North station in the same way. This road feeds into the A24 and the Council involved is Lambeth not Wandsworth. The junction next to Stockwell station is already complicated – a kind of "staggered" X junction (one arm of the X - Binfield Road - is a semi-one-way street and the junction between Clapham Road and Stockwell Road is not precisely opposite the junction between Clapham Road and Binfield Road) and this leads into other unusual junctions leading to South Lambeth Road and Kennington Road via the Stockwell Cross semi-pedestrian area (with the War Memorial in the middle).

**So any traffic jam on any of these roads has a "knock on effect" on all of them.**

## WASTE NOT, WANT NOT

One of our U3A members volunteers for the Work and Play Scrapstore in Blackshaw Road, Tooting - a local charity that collects unwanted items – ends of ranges, surplus stock, off cuts and so on – from green-minded businesses in order to protect the environment and to make the items available for use in art projects, for example. Operating since 1988, the charity also educates the general public on how to up-cycle and re-use waste materials through outreach work such as bespoke workshops, tours, tutorials and worksheets, as well as general communication to its membership. Notwithstanding Covid-19, outside events are held throughout the year.

**On average over 50 tonnes of waste are diverted from landfill and incineration each year because of the work the Scrapstore does.**

Scrapstore members are a mix of artists, nurseries, primary and secondary schools, charities, home educators, childminders and community groups. Some members travel in from other boroughs such as Lambeth and Merton and further afield – as far as Kent. They find a treasure trove of goods: paper, buttons, textiles, wallpaper, theatrical props, wood, perspex, paint, wool and much, much more. Stock changes each week as donations arrive. Scrapstore only happens because of the enthusiasm of the 30 volunteers who come in each week and help sort, cut, fold, pack, and generally re-purpose the mountains of donated goods. Corporate volunteering is also encouraged as a useful source of manpower.

If you are interested in becoming a member or a volunteer, details can be found on the website: [Work and Play Scrapstore London](#)



Next  
week

WISE  
WORDS

Coming your way: Ruth Bowdage's appearance on *The Repair Shop* with her Grandad's shaving mirror and a special feature on Lockdown Diaries. Please get in touch to tell us how you are keeping a record of these amazing times. There are already three teams of people about to do reviews on the effect on local shopping areas in Putney, Southfields and Wandsworth Common. But it would be good if we got more information on the effect of the pandemic on shops/clubs/community projects from round the borough.

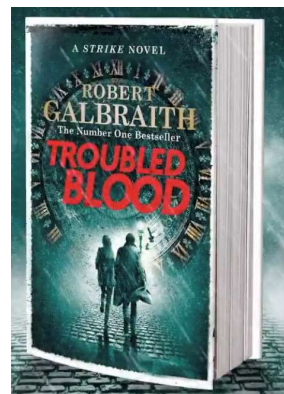
Our world is NOT divided by race, colour, gender or religion  
It is divided into WISE people and FOOLS .... .. and the fools  
divide THEMSELVES by race, colour, gender and religion

often attributed to Nelson Mandela; given to us by LynC

## BIG BOOK OF THE WEEK

Philip Pullman gave us 700 pages (*Secret Commonwealth*) and Hilary Mantel (*Mirror and the Light*) 875. Now to help us through the second lockdown Robert Galbraith (who she?) provides us with *Troubled Blood* and its 927 pages – “not for the faint of wrist” the Guardian advises.

All dwarfed by Vikram Seth's *A Suitable Boy*: my paperback edition stretches to 1488 pages, giving us one of the longest novels published in a single volume. I can't remember being as underwhelmed by the book as I was by the recent TV series – give it a go if you want to avoid dying of boredom reading *Anna Karenina*. Now, you U3A book groups, what do you have on your bedside table right now?



“not for the faint of  
wrist” - 927 pages

Merton Priory's most  
famous old boy



Monday's monthly meeting treated us to an interesting talk on **Merton Priory**. Thomas à Becket was educated here c 1130 and had a sticky end much like the Priory – demolished in 1538, stone by stone removed to build Nonsuch Palace. Once as long as Westminster Abbey, it is now overshadowed by Sainsbury's superstore but recent funding and the efforts of the Trust have brought us a place to visit – next summer? In the meantime, well worth a look is their video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OAOUxRFqU4>