**Minutes from our General Meeting - Saturday February 27th**

**Scout Hut Update**

The meeting heard all about the forest clearance in December and the addition of new fencing and storage sheds. In addition, details were shared about the discussion with the Council’s Park Ranger, Pat Robinson and hopefully for donation and planting of a number of sapling trees form Syon Park Garden Centre. Follow all the developments on twitter!

**The new Forest School**

Katie King runs the Ark Montessori school and she came to tell us about what a Forest School is , how children can learn for a natural environment and the way in which their play and learning is and has to be fully supervised (just as all Scouting activities are too

**Chiswick issues** – we normally focus on news just in our area but some things in Chiswick may affect us .

 **The new Southfield 20mph zone – your thoughts?**

Many of you were aware of the zone but had no real views

It was said that it is sensible for the limit to apply in the smaller roads but not the main roads such as The Avenue, Acton lane Bollo lane, etc – Although it was said that speeds in The Avenue can be high

The fact that the police have been doing some monitoring was discussed – they hope to repeat this

Many had no strong feelings

**Oktoberfest**This event may be held in August for 5 days, in the park outside the tube. SPTRA is represented at the [Ward Forum](https://www.ealing.gov.uk/info/201047/ward_forums/1185/southfield_ward_forum) (9th March Southfield School) where this event will be discussed. We will be asked for our views so we wanted to hear your views to represent you accurately at that meeting. What did you  think? No one was really against this idea and many agreed that because the Council seeks to raise money from the rental of its land, this will simply happen. A few suggested that Chiswick is seen as an area worth visiting from other neighbourhoods and where things happen which are worth going to – events such as this maintain the standing of the area. Questions were asked about the timing (hours of operation) but no concerns were raised

Andrew Steed explained the company running the event was

* Not the same as events which had received poor publicity
* Had been extensively vetted by the council

Some spoke about other similar events saying that these can be very well behaved occasions popular with genuine beer enthusiasts

People who worked in Twickenham said the rugby crowds who are used to drinking had no bad effect on the area, businesses or pedestrians

In general people seemed to be happy to see it happen and make judgments after

It was also noted that our neighbours were not residents in the immediate vicinity but comparison with green days and the regular fairs was made in terms of public drinking and any noise which may be generated

**AGM - 2016**

It’s on  Saturday May