

# Beckenham Matters

News from Beckenham Business Association  
with Beckenham Town Centre Manager

Issue 3 - January / February 2016

## Beckenham awarded prestigious prize for night time economy



Beckenham has been granted the prestigious **Purple Flag Award** by the Association of Town & City Management (ATCM) for its night time economy. The accreditation indicates a “gold standard” for town centres at night.

Similar to how a blue flag recognises outstanding beach quality, the purple flag accreditation scheme recognises excellence in the management of town and cities at night. There are now 42 towns and cities that possess purple flag status nationwide.

Councillor Peter Morgan said: *“The decision to award Beckenham this prestigious prize is great news for the borough. Beckenham’s purple flag status indicates that the town possesses a thriving, vibrant and most importantly safe nightlife. The award will ensure that Beckenham’s night time economy will only continue to grow stronger.”*

The physical flag will be presented at an awards ceremony in February and it will be mounted on a flag pole in the town centre.

## David Bowie’s time in Beckenham remembered

David Bowie lived in Beckenham from the age of six. As a young man, he studied commercial drawing at Bromley Technical College. At the

time he was living with his parents but he soon moved as a lodger into a flat on Foxgrove Road. He set up an “arts lab” at the former Three Tuns pub, now Zizzi, where he regularly performed.

Councillor Colin Smith, the LBB Council’s deputy leader, said: *“Those of us in our 50s and 60s in particular I suspect but many, many, more as well, have long since been very proud of our adopted Beckenham boy’s roots and what he went on to achieve and like multitudes of others, now mourn his passing with great sadness. He may be gone, but his music and legend will live on.”*



RIP David Bowie  
8 January 1947 – 10 January 2016

After impromptu shrines to David Bowie appeared in Beckenham following his death, fans have called for more permanent memorials to the legendary musician. Initial plans to honour him include renaming the historic bandstand in Beckenham, where Bowie performed in 1969, “as a permanent memory of his genius”.

Councillor Michael Tickner has put the issue of a Bowie memorial on the next **Beckenham Town Centre Working Group** agenda. **The date of the next meeting is Thursday 17 March, 7.30 pm at Beckenham Library.**

## Talk of the town

A proposal has been made to form **Business Improvement Districts (BIDs)** in Beckenham and Penge town centres.

The Council has been supporting the formation of BIDs since 2011. The Orpington 1st BID has proved highly successful, generating at least £400k of income since its inception in 2013, all of which has been spent to the benefit of the town centre.

The new Bromley BID is expected to generate at least £3m of investment in the town over its first five years.

BIDs provide a sustainable and fair method for businesses to contribute to and lead on the management and improvement of their locality. Establishing a BID in a locality can lever far in excess of the resources which would be accessible from Council funded Town Centre Management arrangements.

The council will be carrying out feasibility studies on the proposal during the Spring.

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An information film providing advice on the steps to take to keep safe in the event of a firearms or weapons attack has been released to the public.

Recent events around the world remind us all of the terrorist threat we face, which in the UK is considered SEVERE, meaning an attack is highly likely. It is important that communities remain vigilant and aware of how to protect themselves if the need arises.

The four-minute film, 'Stay Safe: Firearms and Weapons Attack' sets out three key steps for keeping safe: run, hide or tell, and is available on YouTube [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com). For further advice, visit [www.npcc.police.uk/staysafe](http://www.npcc.police.uk/staysafe)

**Remember, in an emergency call 999; for non-emergencies call 101; or for the Anti-Terrorist Hotline call 0800 789 321.**

### High Street works

Sample paving for the new High Street scheme will be laid near Kelsey Square and Prezzo towards the end of January.

Comments and any feedback can be made via an email address which will be included in the paving on display.

The Shutter Shop is a new addition to the High Street, in the recently refurbished former Suola outlet, 123 High Street.

### Open mic poetry evening at the Beckenham Bookshop

There will be an open mic poetry evening at the Beckenham Bookshop. Open to all ages and styles, with no preference given to who reads first, or last.

The first event of 'Beck Beat' starts at 6.30pm, Tuesday 1 March and will be wrapped up by 8pm, with each performer, perhaps you (?), enjoying 5 minutes airtime, at the most.

[www.facebook.com/beckbeatpoetry](http://www.facebook.com/beckbeatpoetry)

## PAWS FOR THOUGHT

By Beckenham newshounds Barney & Pip



**Beckenham Bookshop, Beckenham Flower Studio, St Christopher's Hospice Shop and Frock Follies on High Street, Beckenham put up some wonderful Winter Wonderland shop window displays over the festive season and share top prize.**

Last August the Council refused an application by the owner of Ardec to convert it to a restaurant on the grounds that the shop is part of the designated primary shopping frontage of the High Street. The applicant has appealed against the decision but, at the time of writing, an appeal hearing date had not been set. Ref 15/02489/FULL2

### Met Police – Copers Cope Area Newsletter

February's Copers Cope Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) newsletter is now available on the Beckenham Business Association website – Select News > Newsletter.

### Beckenham Business Association membership

For just £25 a year you can attend a minimum of 4 networking meetings for free. Find out more

[www.beckenhambusinessassociation.co.uk](http://www.beckenhambusinessassociation.co.uk)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Dates you don't want to miss!

### VINTAGE & RETRO FAIR

**When: Sunday 7 February, 11am–5pm**

**Where: Venue 28, 28 Beckenham Road**

**What: 40+ vintage stalls, plus hot street food and other gourmet delights**

**Admission: £2 on the door or £1 with flier**

**More info: <https://twitter.com/solastc>**

### BECKENHAM COMEDY CABARET

**When: Friday 26 February, 8pm**

**Where: St George's Hall, Albemarle Road**

**What: A new variety night in the heart of Beckenham**

**More info:**

[www.facebook.com/beckenhamcomedycabaret](http://www.facebook.com/beckenhamcomedycabaret)

### OPEN MIC POETRY EVENING

**When: Tuesday 1 March, 6.30pm – 8pm**

**Where: Beckenham Bookshop**

**More info: [www.facebook.com/beckbeatpoetry](http://www.facebook.com/beckbeatpoetry)**

### MARKET ON THE GREEN

Local outdoor produce and craft market

**When: Saturday 14 May, 10am – 4pm**

**Where: Beckenham Green.**

### BECKENHAM BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

**Meetings 2016:**

- Tuesday 23 February – Breakfast
- Wednesday 16 March - Evening
- Thursday 26 May - Evening
- Tuesday 21 June - Evening
- Tuesday 12 July - Breakfast
- Wednesday 21 September - Evening
- Tuesday 6 December - Evening

### Details & Booking

<http://www.beckenhambusinessassociation.co.uk/events/>

If you have any events you'd like us to include in this newsletter, please let us know – space prevailing, we'll do our best.

**Next issue: March 2016**