

HAVE YOU SEEN ?

A black fox has been sighted in the area. Indeed one turned up at a back door in The Drive on Sunday, 24 January at midday. Further sightings have been made and it was caught on camera in a garden in London Road where it is a frequent visitor.

The vast majority of foxes in the UK are red in colour, but black (melanistic) and white (leucistic & albino) foxes are occasionally spotted. Foxes with white patches (piebald foxes) are relatively common in comparison, especially in urban areas.

The frequency of black foxes seen in the UK has been historically low and such sightings appear far less frequently than in other areas of the world (less than 0.1% of the population). For this reason, black foxes have been a thing of myth and folklore within the UK.



This melanistic or black version of the red fox carries a recessive gene that means its appearance in nature is a rare occurrence. In contrast, the practice of trapping and breeding melanistic North American red foxes in the 19th century resulted in the 'silver fox', an animal model developed by the fur trade and then domesticated for tameness in an ongoing Russian experiment.

In recent years, there appears to be a return of the melanistic gene to the UK fox population and the number of unusually coloured fox sightings has increased as a result. While some of these sightings will be of native wild foxes, some of the animals seen are that of escaped exotic pets (North American farmed foxes or 'silver foxes').

If you have seen an unusually coloured fox and would like this recorded, go to:

www.blackfoxes.co.uk/report-a-sighting.php where your sighting will be added to the database.

MR VIRMANI

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of Mr Virmani (Senior).

A well know figure in the local area who, despite his age, was often seen out and about. He was a member of the Association for many years and will be missed.

Our sincere condolences go to his family, friends and all who knew him.



DATA PROTECTION

You have received this newsletter as a member/former member of Spring Grove Residents' Association. Should you no longer wish to receive this please contact any member of the committee.

FLOODING

Many will be aware of the recent flooding in the area mainly associated with The Crane and Duke of Northumberland rivers. However flooding has affected properties from 4 to 20 (even numbered) in The Drive.

On 14th January the attending engineer immediately referred the issue to a supervisor and the problem was tracked to a blocked sewer on Spring Grove Road. Thames Water managed to clear this by 6pm and did a great job of pumping out back gardens which was followed up by a disinfection truck on Friday, 15 January.

During the second occasion on 29th January some properties unfortunately had sewerage coming up through downstairs toilets and shower rooms whilst all had back gardens flooded with contaminated water. As one resident stated they were very worried about infectious disease which might result from the stagnant sewage water.

These concerns were exacerbated as most people are using their garden as a safe place for children to play and adults to walk and exercise. This was no longer possible.

Thames Water has implied that flooding can be expected every time it rains heavily, clearly this is unacceptable to the residents. They are now anxiously monitoring weather forecasts and looking nervously to the skies every time it starts to rain.

The help and support of the local MP, the Mayor and Ward Councillors has been sought to secure a permanent solution to this ongoing problem.



PLANNING MATTERS AS AT 31st JANUARY 2021

Hounslow Central **Applications**

2 The Close

Application for proposed development of a single dwelling house on the site alongside the existing dwelling at 2 The Close.

Decisions

42 The Drive

Retrospective application for construction of an outbuilding in the rear garden.
REFUSED PLANNING PERMISSION 04/12/2020

52 The Drive

Certificate of Lawfulness for existing use of dwelling house as two self contained flats.
GRANTED (FULL PLANNING PERMISSION NOT REQUIRED) 04/01/2021

Other **Applications**

Land At Rear Of 50 Thornbury Road

Erection of detached two storey, three bedroom house with associated parking.

Osterley & Spring Grove **Decisions**

7 Eversley Crescent (00423/7/P5)

Retrospective application for the retention of existing rear canopy with partial removal of canopy at side.
REFUSED PLANNING PERMISSION 18/01/2021

48 Eversley Crescent

Erection of a two storey extension to provide a two bedroomed house with associated parking and bin stores following demolition of the existing outbuilding and garage.
APPROVED 20/01/2021

174 Spring Grove Road

Certificate of lawfulness for rear roof extension with two rear windows.
GRANTED (FULL PLANNING PERMISSION NOT REQUIRED) 21/12/2020

