

BELSIZE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

May 2016

Notes from your Chair

Welcome to the May Belsize Residents' Association Newsletter.

We welcome a new committee in this issue, particularly Sanya Polescuk, Barrie Tankel, Maria O'Sullivan and Sarah Courtin who join as the newest committee members. Sanya and Barrie will lead the Association's work in planning, Sarah is the new BRA secretary and Maria is improving our links with other local groups.

This issue features a piece on the Belsize Village Architects' Hub, a group of local architects trying to raise interest in architecture using community activities. One event is occurring 23 June and Sanya's article explains what is happening.

The issue also covers a recent success, as the ACV status given by Camden to the Sir Richard Steele pub was preserved at a Tribunal hearing. This - along with 100 Avenue Road and plans for a cycling superhighway - means it has been a busy time on planning matters.

It was great to see many of you at AGM and there is a short report about this year's meeting.

Finally, hope you find the new Tradesman You Can Trust booklet helpful that comes with this issue.

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Summer Garden Party

Don't miss this year's BRA Garden Party!

Sunday, 26 June
3pm - 5.30pm
Garden Flat, 17 Lambolle Road
NW3 4HS

Courtesy of Deborah and Barry Buzan
BRA Members Only

Annual General Meeting

Hampstead Town Hall was filled with BRA members on Sunday, 6 March, for the AGM. We reviewed what the Association did last year and discussed plans for the coming year. A new committee was elected, with Anne Stevens, Judith Farbey, Neil Harris, Prabhat Vaze, Alex Crisp and Consuelo Phelan continuing and being joined by Sarah Courtin, Barrie Tankel and Sanya Polescuk. After the AGM, Maria O'Sullivan was co-opted on to committee.

Pat Holden, Ruth Sands and Gordon Curtis stepped down this year having helped for a number of years. The AGM was an opportunity to thank them for all the help during the years.

Planning matters were the centre of discussion. The proposals to change the Swiss Cottage gyratory to accommodate a cycle superhighway were raised; there were also a number of suggestions from the membership about our approach in other local developments, such as next steps with HS2 and what lessons come from 100 Avenue Road.

We canvassed the membership's views on whether to change the status of the Association, particularly exploring whether it would be useful to become a community interest company or a charity. The former met with approval as it meant the committee did not take personal responsibility for actions taken by the Association; it was felt that becoming charitable may constrain the ability to campaign.

As always, the meeting provided a chance to meet with friends and neighbours. The volunteers that provided tea and cakes did another great job.

HS2 next stages

The BRA has put in a petition to the House of Lords about HS2's impact on Belsize. The petition is primarily focused on ensuring HS2 Ltd deliver on commitments they have already made. In December, HS2, Greater London Authority and Transport for London jointly agreed to explore and finalise plans to reduce significantly the traffic that would need to use local roads. The intention now is that HS2 will use rail to move spoils from construction in Euston, rather than trucks as had been proposed in the 2014 plans. Our hope is that these intentions would have translated into firm commitment before the Lords hearings.

Cycle superhighway, Sainsbury's, 100 Avenue Road

Essential Living asked to be allowed to demolish the current building in 100 Avenue Road. BRA have commented, objecting to variations in the planning inspector's decision about this. Essential Living still need to get approval for their proposed tower's foundations – something the Inspector had expected ahead of demolition. Thankfully, Camden has rejected any changes that would accelerate demolition.

On the proposals to remove the Swiss Cottage gyratory and provide a cycle superhighway, the Association objected to TfL plans, asking for more detail about why so much road space was being removed for a single cycle lane.

BRA did not comment on the request for retail space in the building beside Belsize Park tube station. The active and vocal local protests, including a petition, persuaded Sainsbury's to pull out.

Sir Richard Steele Pub

We are very pleased that the First-tier Tribunal accepted the submissions of Camden and the BRA in dismissing a challenge by the Sir Richard Steele's owners to de-list the pub as an Asset of Community Value. Facet Inn – who own the pub – have asked to change the use of a large part of the pub on a number of occasions, primarily aiming to develop the upper floors for residential use. BRA argued that the pub had a long tradition of being used by the community and the ACV status means that any future proposed changes to the pub have to take this into account.

In March, a judge heard Facet Inn's appeal that the ACV be removed or changed. BRA's membership secretary, Anne Stevens put our case forward, which was largely demonstrating the pub's recent use for community events, especially in the room above the pub.

For BRA, Ugo Vallauri spoke about the Restart project that has used Steeles, a community project explaining how people can fix things that otherwise might be thrown away. Carla Ranicki provided evidence about the Transition Belsize meetings that used the pub. Martin Besserman talked through the Monkey Business comedy club that was held in the upstairs room for several years. Our evidence even explained the Facet observation that takings in the upstairs room were much lower than the rest of Steeles, when Jonquil Stewart observed how the beer was usually better downstairs.

Volunteer for BRA

We would welcome members volunteering for the committee (particularly those interested in working for the BRA on "facing" Camden Council community services) and also helping with events (making cakes or support on the day). Please contact info@belsize.org.uk

BELSIZE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

TRADESMEN YOU CAN TRUST

MAY 2016



Drawing by Tony Gotlop

*Tradesmen listed here are personal recommendations
by members of the BRA*

*No other assessment is made of tradesmen's competence,
trustworthiness or qualifications*

Tradesmen You Can Trust

A big "thank you" to both new and stalwart members who have sent us recommendations of tradesmen for the 2016 booklet which accompanies this Newsletter. We trust you find it as useful as ever.

No new categories this year but despite significantly fewer contributors, overall there are just about as many trusty tradesmen entries as in 2015. We have made one change in category names because plumbers/gas installers was causing some confusion. So now there are "Plumbers, Drain & Gutter Cleaners, Tilers" and "Plumbers: Gas Safe Engineers" - hopefully this clarifies the issue for you.

Remember you can send in your suggestions and re-recommendations at any time during the year for the next issue, using the white form in the centre of this booklet, printing the same form from the website or just putting all relevant details in an email to TYCT@belsize.org.uk.

Name our square! Design
our square! (Eat tasty
food!)

Thursday 23 June, 3:30–7pm, Belsize
Village Square

Belsize Village Hub* returns to host another fun and engaging event for all ages during the annual London Festival of Architecture this June. Residents and visitors alike are invited to take part in an unofficial 'public consultation'. We are looking for ideas to rename our square (misleadingly named Belsize Terrace...?) and improve the space to be more welcoming and better used by all. Drawing materials, giant black board tables, photographs and maps will be provided. Food and drink will be available from local eateries.



*Belsize Village Hub comprises of four innovative local architecture practices : Sanya Polescuk Architects, Starchitects, Square Feet Architects, and XUL Architecture.

Demonstration Day at the Maureen Michaelson Gallery

Sunday 12 June from 11am – 5pm
Artist Talk at 3pm
NW3 5AD

A fun day of watching, looking and maybe even trying your hand at making some art!

Sculptor Fiona Campbell, fresh from making the large copper woven canopy for this year's Viking Cruises floating show garden at RHS Chelsea Flower Show, will be demonstrating her sculpting techniques. Her sculptures are made from a range of recycled and found materials such as copper wires, plastic, silk, wool and twine.

At 3pm Fiona will also be giving a talk about her work and career, including her inspiration and methods.

Visitors can wander round the private garden and exhibition and watch Fiona at work. The event is free and no booking is necessary.

This event celebrates our 5th year of being open for Chelsea Fringe. Demonstration Day coincides with the final day of Hidden Garden Art Show 2016. The 13th annual exhibition is open for two weekends in June: Saturdays and Sundays 4 – 5th and 11 – 12th, from 11 - 6pm. Weekdays are by appointment.

Get involved in your neighbourhood!

Belsize Community Library

We are very proud to share that the Belsize Library has been awarded Grade II Listed Status by Heritage England! On hearing the good news a local resident and 'Friend', Robert Ilson, wrote a delightful poem that was included in the Camden New Journal:

When I survey our Library
It seems more safely there
Because Those In Authority
Deem it worth love and care.

May it serve to delight us now
And many years to come:
A lovely, useful house that is
Leisure's and Learning's home!

- Robert Ilson
Antrim Mansions, NW3



Get involved with Transition Belsize!

There are lots of ways to get involved with Transition Belsize...

You could sign up for the group's newsletter to keep up-to-date with news and events.

You could attend one of the many events organised, such as Film Nights, Creative Monday Afternoons or Free Draught Busting Workshops.

You could join one of the theme-based groups or get involved with one of the ongoing Projects such as Premier Inn Food Growing or Transition Kids.

You could start a Transition Streets group in your road or on your estate and work with your neighbours to reduce your impact on the planet.

Or you could suggest other ideas then be sure to email if you'd like some support to make it happen:
info@transitionbelsize.org.uk

The group are always looking for volunteers to help with our various projects, groups and events. Find out more on the website:
transitionbelsize.org.uk

The Royal Free Music Society Choir

The Royal Free Music Society is a friendly, non-auditioned choir based at the Royal Free Hospital in North London. The choir was founded in 1999 by staff of the hospital but now includes many members of the local community. We have approximately 45 members in all and come together regularly to enjoy high-quality music-making whilst having fun. We take our Thursday evening rehearsals seriously but enjoy some social activities too.

We put on three or four concerts a year, often accompanied by our sister orchestra, the Hampstead Sinfonietta. Recent performances include Handel's *Dixit Dominus*, Mendelsohn's *Elijah* and Vivaldi's *Gloria*. We are fortunate to be able to count St. Mark's Church in Primrose Hill as a regular venue for our performances.

The Society is a registered charity (1151170), run by a committee who are elected annually from and by the Society members.



Our next concert will be on 18th June 2016 when we will be singing Puccini's *Messa di Gloria*.

Venue: St John's Wood Church, Lord's Roundabout, London NW8 7NE

Tickets available from: www.ticketsource.co.uk/rfms

£10 in advance or £12 on the door. Free entry for children.

Need to know

Dates for your diary

Parish Eucharist & Sunday School

+ Every Sunday

St Peter's Church

11.30am

Details: www.spbp.org.uk/services.htm

Marylebone Birdwatching Society - Hampstead Heath Stroll

+ Friday 24 June

Meet on the street corner near Hampstead

Overground Station, South End Road NW3 2QD

18.30pm

Details: www.birdsmbs.org.uk/local.html

BRA Summer Garden Party

+ Sunday 26 June

3pm - 5.30pm

Garden Flat, 17 Lambolle Road

NW3 4HS

Details: www.belsize.org.uk/events

Exhibition - Patterns of Experience: Photography, Painting, Sculpture & Installation

+ 27 to 31 July

Burgh House

12-5pm

Details: www.burghhouse.org.uk/whats-on/exhibitions

Regents Park Decorative & Fine Arts Society -

+ Wednesday 15 June

Private tour of Kenwood House, Hampstead Heath

1.45pm at the main entrance to the house

Tickets: £11 for members, £14 for non-members

Details: www.regentsparkdfas.org.uk/Visits/

How to contact the editor

Comments, contributions and events welcome!

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August issue deadline:

23 July 2016

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