

BELSIZE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

November 2013

Notes from your Chairwoman

A big welcome to the 40 new households who have signed up since the last Newsletter. As over 80 new households have joined in the past year, we are holding two **new members' events** in the next couple of months. I hope to meet you all at one of them. Among our new members are representatives of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts based in Lyndhurst Road (see page 5). We are always pleased to strengthen our **links with local organisations**.

Camden is consulting on a draft **Local List** of buildings, street features and landscapes that make a valuable contribution to the area. We campaigned for this, so it is good to see it coming to fruition and that 10 of our nominations have been included (see page 6). We continue to express concern about the latest proposals for 100 Avenue Road.

Following some musical chairs on the **committee** we now have a new Secretary, Prabhat Vaze, and Membership Secretary, Anne Stevens. Deborah Buzan is helping Gordon Curtis with planning. But there are other activities that we need help with. We need someone to look after our **community noticeboard** in Haverstock Hill, as well as people to help with organising neighbourhood get-togethers and our main **events**



Brilliant colours and misty bare branches: that's Belsize in autumn

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programme. Please give serious thought to whether you can help, and don't hesitate to contact us to find out more (see pages 2 and 4).

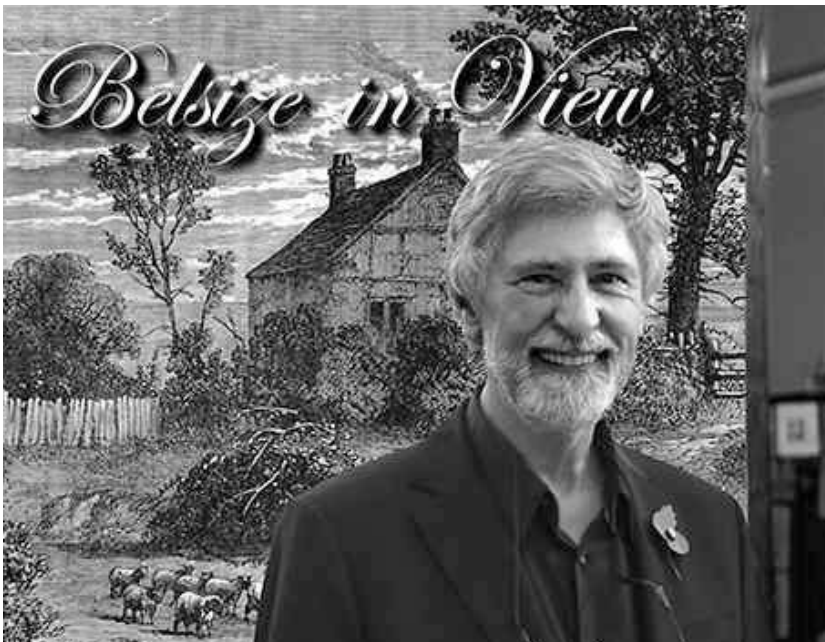
We are delighted to have started to **communicate electronically** with members. This will not replace this Newsletter but will enable us to let you know about important things more quickly. We are also in the process of upgrading our website (see page 3), and would welcome your views.

* Get ready to sing! *

BRA carols

Saturday 21 December

* Details on page 5 *



Pond Street, 1750



Lost in our lifetime:
the Haverstock
Arms mural,
Upper Park Road,
2012

Rarely can an hour have been so rich with fascinating images and stories as during David Percy's illustrated talk, *Belsize in View*, at Belsize Community Library on 13 November. Shown on a large screen, a succession of rare engravings, paintings, photographs, many hand-coloured, appeared, transporting us - via David's enlightening commentary - through the streets and scenes of 'greater Belsize' from the 18th century to the 21st.

Sadly, there isn't space here to do justice to David's talk, but there is good news for those who missed it. The

Shepherd's
Well, 1820:
a rustic
scene, but
hard work
for water
carriers



images we enjoyed (of which these are a tiny sample) were among those collected for his new film, *The Belsize Story, volume 2*, available from Daunt Books Haverstock Hill, Primrose Hill Books, and www.belsizestory.com. And David will repeat the *Belsize in View* talk at Burgh House on 13 April 2014.

Could you help BRA events to run smoothly?

Events such as the *Belsize in View* lecture and our summer garden parties depend for their success on the enthusiasm and skills of BRA members. Following recent changes to committee roles, there are opportunities for more of you to get involved. Ideally we would like one person on the committee

co-ordinating our main events programme and another (who does not need to be on the committee) to organise neighbourhood get-togethers. If you could help in either of these ways, or would like to know what is involved in being on the committee, please phone Averil or email info@belsize.org.uk.

WHAT IS BRA UP TO?

Email updates - for those who want them

We know how much BRA members appreciate our Newsletter, but it comes out only four times a year. Until now, we haven't had an easy and cost-effective way to contact you in between editions - with reminders of events, for example, or to alert you promptly to important local matters as they crop up. Email seems the best way to do this, so this month we sent out our first general message. If you did not get it and would like to do so in future, please make sure we have your correct email address. We will never pass it on to anyone else and will always include an 'unsubscribe' button so you can come off the list.

Help make our website better

We are in the process of remaking the BRA website to be brighter, more modern, easier to use, more useful, and less prone to the kind of technical problems there have been in recent months. Please take a look at www.belsize.org.uk. If you have comments on what should or should not be there or how it should look, we would love to hear from you. And if any of the photographers among you have images of Belsize you would be happy for us to use on the site, with credit, please let us know. We will be hiring a professional web designer, who will help the committee choose which pictures to use. If you can recommend a web designer or would be interested in quoting for the work yourself, please let us know by emailing info@belsize.org.uk.



BRA'S TRADESMEN LIST NEEDS YOU



We are sorry to tell you that Peter North, whose details appeared in the 2013 edition of *Tradesmen You Can Trust*, has died. To avoid further distress to his family, please take the time now to cross out his entry (under Handymen) in your copy.

Many thanks to those members who are already sending fresh recommendations for the 2014 edition of *TYCT*. All information on additions, deletions and other changes that need to be made to the next booklet are gratefully received - at any time. Just email TYCT@belsize.org.uk or write to compiler Sarah Courtin at the address on the Comments and Suggestions form on the BRA website.

Sing with neighbours

In our round-up of local choirs in the August Newsletter, we missed out the Royal Free Music Society Choir. It meets on Thursdays from 7pm to 8.30 in the Peter Samuel Hall at the hospital. For more details, visit www.royalfreemusicsociety.org.uk.

URGENT!

Our noticeboard needs YOU

Our community noticeboard on Haverstock Hill has been looked after ever since it was installed in October 2011 by Jan Morrison. We are extremely grateful to her for doing this so efficiently. However, Jan now has additional commitments, so we urgently need someone to replace her.

The job involves updating the noticeboard each week and keeping it clean and tidy. A number of local organisations regularly e-mail posters to Jan about their events and activities, and any posters that are sent through to BRA are also passed on to her.

If you think you might be able to undertake this useful community service, please phone Averil or e-mail info@belsize.org.uk. Jan is available for a handover before the end of the year.

Supporting local causes

The two local good causes we will be supporting this year are Belsize Community Library and St Peter's church garden. The Library have chosen to put our donation towards buying new computers that the public can use. St Peter's will be using their share to improve the open space around the church, which is widely used as a quiet little outdoor space to stroll and sit. As usual, we will also be raising money for the Marie Curie Hospice through our carol singing (see opposite).



A haven for roses and local residents: St Peter's church garden

Pay up to stay in!

Subscriptions for 2014 are due on 1 January. Here's how to make sure you remain a BRA member.

If you already pay by **standing order**, you don't need to do anything, because your bank will deal with it automatically.

If you normally pay by **cheque**, you'll find a letter and application form enclosed with this Newsletter, to return, with your £10 cheque, to our Membership Secretary, Anne Stevens. However, it saves us a lot of time if members pay by standing order, and you can switch to this method by filling in the relevant section of the application form.

It is possible to pay **online**, but it's only safe to do so if you remember to quote your membership number as the payee reference. Your membership number is on the Newsletter envelope, or check with with Anne (see back page).



The Olave Centre: elegant headquarters of a worldwide movement

Girl guides' grown-up home

In Lyndhurst Road, a little way above the corner with Haverstock Hill, stands an intriguing group of white buildings, historic and modern. This is the Olave Centre, home to the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, a representative of which has become one of BRA's newest members.

Named after Olave, the girl guide movement's founder and wife of Robert Baden Powell, the Centre includes traces of Rosslyn Lodge, which was built in 1810 for the first Lord Rosslyn, and once housed a first world war military hospital.

The flag-decked modern building, Pax Lodge, was built in 1991 as one of four international centres for world girl guides and scouts. Members may be more familiar with it as the venue for local National Trust meetings, as well as brownie and guide troop sessions.

Carol singing



**Come and make
seasonal music
with BRA**

Saturday

21 December

from 4.30pm

Belsize Terrace

We can't guarantee a dry afternoon, but we can promise plenty of singing and mince pies!

We'll bring the song sheets, so just wrap up well and bring a torch. Mince pie and collection proceeds will go to the Marie Curie Hospice.



**Damp but
undaunted: last
year's singers**

What makes Belsize special?

BRA's Local List nominations gain recognition

Camden is consulting on a draft Local List of buildings, street features and landscapes that make a valuable contribution to the area. We're happy to see that ten of the 14 nominations we made were accepted, while the remainder were considered to be protected in other ways already.

The houses that led us to campaign for a Local List, **2c and d Belsize Park Gardens**, are included, as well as other modernist houses at **1 Village Close**, **40 Ornan Lane** and **17a Belsize Lane** and **Tasker Road**. Also on the draft list are the traditional **lampposts** in Belsize Village, the wide pavements on **Haverstock Hill** and several traditional **pillar boxes**. The **Belsize Library**, which we thought was covered in other ways, has been included, too.

At Swiss Cottage, the **leisure centre**, **Hampstead theatre**, **water feature** and main buildings of the **Central School of Art and Drama** have all been included. We hope this may add to the arguments against a tower block being built at 100 Avenue Road.

Full information can be found at www.wearecamden.org/camden-local-list/. The consultation continues until 20 December.

UPDATE: *Police service*



Having closed the Hampstead Police Station, the Metropolitan Police want to set up a local contact

point that the public can visit at fixed times. They have now tried out four possible options: Hampstead Town Hall, the Royal Free, Starbucks in South End Green and the Premier Inn. We have expressed the view that the only viable option is Hampstead Town Hall because of its location and facilities, and because it is a public rather than a commercial

building. We are now waiting to hear what their decision will be.

UPDATE: *Fire station*

The London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority has decided to close 10 fire stations, including the one in Belsize, by 9 January 2014. We understand that Camden, with several other local councils, plan to seek a Judicial Review of this decision. If this is not successful, the Grade II Listed building in Lancaster Grove will be sold.



UPDATE: *Recycling*

When wheelie bins appeared in Belsize, they brought plenty of queries from BRA members. We asked Camden's Principal Environmental Services Officer, Ann Baker, to provide some answers

Q Why are wheelie bins left on the property boundary sometimes ignored? Why are they sometimes returned on the road rather than inside front gardens or drives? Why aren't wheelie bins left on the street always emptied?

A Wheelie bins should be placed within the property boundary, but on the edge of the property front, by 7am on collection day; the crews should collect and return the containers to that point.

On some occasions, residents have put receptacles on the pavement and the crews have put them back in the same place. This is contrary to our advice and we have been trying to ensure they don't do this. If you see this taking place, please get in touch.

There is an idea that some containers may not be serviced because the volume of recycling in the bin comes less than halfway up. This isn't right. Any bin that is presented in view and unobstructed should be emptied. Again, please alert us if this isn't happening.

Q Some members have noticed that food bins have become scarce since wheelie bins arrived. Why is this?

A When we introduced the wheelie bins and rescheduled the recycling services, there were changes to the collection crews. This could have affected the food and garden waste

service as new crews might not have been familiar with where residents placed their containers. There have been no policy changes on how this service operates so the brown bins should not go missing. If they do, please get in touch.

Q Could we have an update on extending wheelie bins to larger properties?

A We have always provided wheelie bins and larger eurobins for recycling at multiple occupancy properties on request, and continue to offer these where suitable. Residents who would like these types of recycling containers should check with their neighbours and managing agents before contacting us to discuss options and agree a suitable site and delivery of the bins.

For any of these issues, please email street.environment@camden.gov.uk or ring 020 7974 4444.

Dear Mayor contest wins award

What do children like and dislike about living in Camden? This summer, pupils from Belsize's Rosary School were runners-up in an annual letter-writing competition (Torriano School came top). But presentation to the Mayor wasn't the end of the story for the organisers. In October, on the strength of the competition (run in conjunction with Camden Council's School Improvement Service), Camden Civic Society was honoured as one of seven outstanding community groups out of 200 for a National Civic Day 2013 Award.

Children's likes? Parks, open spaces.

Dislikes? Litter, rubbish, dog mess.

Need to know

Dates for your diary

Brodsky Quartet concert

+Sunday 1 December, 3pm

Includes Alexander Zemlinsky's rarely heard quartet cycle. Part of Hampstead Arts Festival. St Stephen's Church, Pond Street, NW3 2PP

Nigel Kennedy in concert

+Monday 2 December, 7.30pm

Tickets £22 (concessions £20) from St Martin-in-the-Fields box office: www.smitf.org/nigelkennedy, 7766 1000

St Peter's Church, Belsize Square, NW3 4HJ.

St Peter's Christmas Fair

+Sunday 7 December, 11am to 2pm

St Peter's Church, Belsize Square, NW3 4HJ.

Belsize Community Library Christmas Fayre

+Sunday 15 December, 2pm to 5.30pm

Belsize Library, Antrim Road, NW3 4XN.

*****BRA Carol singing*****

+Saturday 21 December, 4.30pm

Belsize Terrace, NW3 4AX.

See page 5 for more information.

Malvina Cheek retrospective

Exhibition includes paintings of Belsize Avenue.

+Until 9 March 2014

Burgh House, New End Square, NW3 1LT.

Open Wednesday to Friday and Sunday, 12-5pm. info@BurghHouse.org.uk for seasonal opening dates.

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BRA WEBSITE
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How to contact the editor

For correspondence relating to any issues raised in this Newsletter, please write to:

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We welcome contributions and event listings.

February-to-April issue deadline: Friday 24 January 2014