

BELSIZE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

May 2015

Notes from your Chair

Welcome to the May Belsize Residents Association Newsletter. There's a new committee following the AGM (see page 2), and I'd like to say a big thanks to the members of the Committee who have helped the past year but now moved on.

This issue features a piece on the trees in Belsize Park (see page 5) and has an update from the new Belsize Park librarian (page 7). We also hope you can support the "World Peace" garden in Hampstead which is looking for volunteers.

There are also articles on local trees and the "waste challenge". Both are areas where BRA lets Camden know about local issues.

The planning matters in this newsletter include the upcoming 100 Avenue Road appeal and our application for the Steeles Pub (on Haverstock Hill) to become an Asset of Community Value.

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

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Welcome the sunshine

Summer Garden Party

Sunday 21 June

Garden Flat, 17 Lambolle Road,
NW3 4HS



Annual General Meeting

Overview

About seventy members attended this year's AGM at Hampstead Town Hall on 8 March. It was a chance to discuss the last year's activities, hear about future plans and chat with fellow members over tea and cakes. A new committee was formed: Anne Stevens, Prabhat Vaze, Neil Harris, Ruth Sands, Judith Farbey, Judith Gubbay, Pat Holden, Consuelo Phelan and Sheila Wigglesworth; we welcome new Committee member Alex Crisp. Deborah Buzan stood down from the committee and she was thanked for all the hard work during the past eight years.

Questions

The discussion at the AGM featured questions about 100 Avenue Road, last year's Councillor hustings, planning policy on basements, Camden Local Plan. The meeting resolved to support the campaign against a Tesco in Haverstock Hill.

Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum

Janine Griffis, chair of the Hampstead Forum, spoke about the advantages of setting up a Forum and stressing the commitment required from members. The Forum is currently drafting its Neighbourhood plan, having decided last year the boundary of the area covered. There's been a lot of consultation and Janine highlighted how much work was involved but that getting local people really involved was vital.

Thanks

Thanks to all the members who were able to attend and especially those who made great cakes and helped with the teas.

Not a waste of time

On 28 February, Judith Farbey represented the BRA at the launch of the Camden Waste Challenge. This was an excellent event, drawing people together from around the borough. At the moment, 29% of waste in Camden is recycled and 70% of rubbish placed in ordinary bags could be recycled. Camden aims to increase recycling to 40% by 2020 and invited our views about how to achieve this.

Lively presentations by the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management, the Centre for Social Innovation and Camden staff gave everyone plenty of thought for the breakout sessions on the challenges and solutions for handling our rubbish over the next five years.

You can find more details about how you can be involved in the Environment section of Camden's website.

Tradesmen You Can Trust

Here's the 2015 booklet filled with your recommendations of reliable tradesmen. Many thanks to all members who have contributed new trades and new names as well as endorsements of tradesmen already listed. We are also very grateful to Tony Gotlop for his great new "Belsize Bob" drawing for the back cover which now happily partners the front cover.

It was very pleasing to receive some different trades this year, mainly included in the Miscellaneous category for the moment, but who knows, maybe more will follow? There are one or two minor changes to category names and we have added a category by splitting Gardens & Trees into two as it was becoming rather muddled. The numbers of new entries and three-year deletions are both less than last year but the overall number of entries is pretty well the same.

"The more, the merrier" might be considered an appropriate slogan for TYCT: so to all members, new and old, please send any commendations of tradesmen, new or listed, at any time. Details may be sent on the forms inside the booklet, downloaded from www.belsize.org.uk or emailed to TYCT@belsize.org.uk.

Camden Local Plan Consultation

BRA wrote a response to Camden's recent consultation about the Borough's local plan. We stressed the importance of improving open spaces and reducing the impact of development especially basements. We also commented on the plan's sections on housing and transport.



100 Avenue Road

Last summer, the proposal to build a 24-storey tower block at this site provoked significant local criticism. Camden Councillors rejected the application after hundreds of objections. BRA funded a study looking at the heritage impacts, as well as appearing at the Camden planning control meeting to express members' concerns.

The developers, Essential Living, have appealed the decision to the Planning Inspector and an inquiry is due to be held in July. Any decision by the Inspector will then be referred to the Secretary of State, somewhat complicated by the possible change after the General Election.

BRA applied for and has been granted Rule 6 status to take part as an interested party in the Inquiry. We are currently coordinating the input with other parties who have objections to the scheme. At the AGM members said they continued to have reservations about the development, particularly its size and scale.

Individual members continue to help in ensuring objections are heard. If you feel able to help, especially if you have experience of planning law or policy, then do get in touch with us.

Sir Richard Steele pub: application for status as an Asset of Community Value



BRA has applied for Camden for the Steele's pub to be an Asset of Community Value. This is a good way of helping to preserve our long-established pubs. The Magdala Public House and the Old White Bear are already ACVs in NW3, as is the old Hampstead Police station and Court House.

For further information about ACVs, you can visit the Community and Living section of Camden's website.

Stolen car in Belsize Park

We were sorry to hear from one of our members that she had her car stolen. Fortunately crime rates in the Belsize area are relatively low. However, our local ward sergeant Martin Hubbard advises the following

Theft of (and theft from) motor vehicle are both common offences at the moment - they are less risky for the criminal than burglary or robbery, as in the latter cases they must risk a victim fighting back. We have seen a recent fall in such offences on Belsize but I apologise, as this will be of little comfort. We are dealing with this by a variety of covert means which have yielded several results. I cannot go into precise details at the moment, as these operations are ongoing. However, I would be grateful if you could tell your residents to be careful about leaving valuables on display in their vehicles and also about the dangers of blocking. This is when a suspect uses a device to copy the high pitched locking code for vehicles - and then later replicates the code to access and steal the vehicle. It is always worth checking who is around when securing your vehicle.

Sergeant Hubbard has also asked us to inform residents that they are setting up a virtual ward panel with email as the main point of contact so that the public can provide regular feedback on concerns and issues.

If any residents would like to join they should contact Belsize.snt@met.pnn.police.uk

Trees in Belsize Park

We sometimes take for granted our tree heritage in Belsize, and how lucky we are that our predecessors had the foresight to leave us such an amenity.

Street trees and those on public land are mostly in the care of Camden Council, but some belong to TfL. The Council has a three year rolling programme of inspection, pruning, etc. For information about risk or damage members of the community are relied upon, allowing the BRA to take up the problem with the Camden Tree Team (Public Land), who have come to be particularly helpful. Either they know about it and can explain what is happening, or they do not know and are pleased to have the information.

For trees on private property, planning applications for tree works on the Council website are monitored, where the local area is concerned, and details of the application can then be looked up to find the reasons. It may be that the tree is “DOD” – dying, diseased or dangerous – so is beyond hope. A council Tree Officer will always inspect a tree which the owner wishes to remove, and if the tree has to go the owner must agree to a replacement. Other reasons given may be that the tree is blamed for subsidence of a wall or building. This is not easy to establish, and it can happen that a tree is removed and the damage persists, so a tree is lost unnecessarily. As you may have noticed, many large trees such as limes and planes are pollarded to reduce their size, resulting in a somewhat unnatural “lollipop” shape. There are regulations governing tree works, especially in a conservation area. You can find out more by contacting the relevant Tree Officer to the area.

- Consuelo Phelan, BRA Tree Officer



Belsize Baroque Orchestra

Belsize Baroque Orchestra will be performing a programme of German and Italian Baroque Music entitled 'Triumphs and Alliances' under the direction of Adrian Butterfield at St Peter's Church, Belsize Park at 6:30 pm on 17 May 2015.

Programme to include works by:
Bach, Vivaldi and Telemann
Tickets £12 available on the door
(reservations: admin@belsizebaroque.org.uk)

Get involved in your neighbourhood!

South End Green Festival - 28 June

South End Green Festival is a local community summer festival run by South End Green Association.

Welcoming foodies, crafters and animal lovers of NW3, the event is organised by local traders and residents and will be a great way to welcome the summer. Any profits made from the day will go towards supporting local initiatives that contribute towards the South End Green neighbourhood.

The festival will be made up of stalls offering a range of items, including arts and crafts, jewellery, clothes and toys, with delicious North London street food available. With live music performances and a dog show, it's set to be a great day for the whole family!

If you'd like to run a stall, email southendgreenfestival@gmail.com



World Peace Garden

The World Peace Garden Camden is a charitable project to promote peace by challenging the usual way we look at the world in the form of an unusual garden containing inspiring messages.

Next door to Hampstead Railway Station is a neglected waste land. Local traders, residents and visitors are donating money to the newly created World Peace Garden Trust to transform it into a World Peace Garden for the community.

Visitors are being asked to answer the question "What would contribute to world peace?". Their response can be both visual and written, with the visual elements being made up into a mosaic, which will be installed in the Peace Garden.

The final vision for the garden is for it to be one of many with any profits going to its upkeep and to seed similar projects in other cities around the world.

If you are a wood carver, sculptor or mosaic artist interested in volunteering some your skills the garden is always ready to welcome new faces. If you'd like to get involved contact Team Leader Jonathan Bergman at office@worldpeacegardencamden.org



Belsize Park Library Updates

My name is Lucy and I have had the pleasure of becoming the new librarian at Belsize community Library, formerly part of Camden libraries.

In 2012 the Winch Charity, based on Winchester Road, took on the library and have been working closely with the Friends of Belsize Library to create an array of activities for the community to enjoy.

We not only offer Rhyme time sessions for the under 5s in English, Spanish and French! We also offer parent support, free Wi-Fi, work spaces and the friends host a monthly author event.

The Friends of Belsize Library was formerly called Belsize Public Library Users' Group and was the first Camden library user group to be officially formed, in 1989.

In addition to the talks, they have over the years been involved in larger events – a street party to raise funds for the second campaign to keep the library open, poetry readings and wine tastings. The main library opening hours are 10am–6pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

To borrow books or use the computers, you will need to become a Belsize Community Library Member- which is free – all you'll need is proof of address!

We invite families and users to come along and get involved in this warm and welcoming library, whether you would like to hire the space for a party, borrow some books or simply relax with a tea or coffee! Come and say hello!

“Reading gives us some place to go when we have to stay where we are.” — Mason Cooley



The Belsize Walk

Primrose Hill to Parliament Hill

A two and a half hour leaflet-guided walk highlighting distinctive local architecture and famous residents.

See www.camden.org.uk or Belsize Terrace notice board.

Streets of Belsize:

A survey of streets, buildings and former residents including 10 walking routes.

Published by Camden History Society and Available from local bookshops.

Belsize Residents Association also organisations local historical walks.

Summer Garden Party

Don't miss this year's
BRA Garden Party

Sunday 21 June
3:00 - 5:30pm
Garden Flat, 17 Lambolle Road,
NW3 4HS

Courtesy of Deborah Buzan
BRA Members Only

Need to know

Dates for your diary

Organ & Piano Recital

+ Thursday 21 May

St Mary's, Primrose Hill, Elsworth Road, NW3 3DJ
7:30pm
Free admission
Details: www.stmarysprimrosehill.com

Belsize Baroque Orchestra

+ Sunday 17 May

St Peter's Church, Belsize Park
6:30 pm, see page 5
Tickets: £12. Contact
admin@belsizebaroque.org.uk

Summer Garden Party

+ Sunday 21 June

Garden Flat, 17 Lambolle Road,
NW3 4HS
3:00 - 5:30pm, see page 7

South End Green Festival

+ Sunday 28 June

South End Green
10:30am - 5pm, see page 6
Details: www.southendgreenfestival.org

Fleet Singers

+ Mondays starting from 13 April

+ Performance on 18 July

Gospel Oak Methodist Church, Agincourt Road
NW3
7:30 - 9:30pm
Cost £72 for 12 rehearsals
Contact: Pam Gilby 020 7485 6990
Details: www.fleetsingers.org.uk

How to contact the editor

Comments, contributions and events welcome!

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