

BELSIZE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

November 2015

Notes from your Chair

Welcome to the November Belsize Residents' Association Newsletter.

Since the last issue, we've been busy on a number of fronts. Many members enjoyed a tour of the Belsize SuperHome, the Coach House.

We've also gone live on a new website developed over the summer. Please do have a look and the web address has not changed.

Many of you have been writing to CLG ministers about the 100 Avenue Road appeal and we are now awaiting a decision. Other planning matters covered in this issue include the upcoming HS2 hearings in Parliament that will cover Camden and an appeal over the Steeles pub status as an "asset of community value".

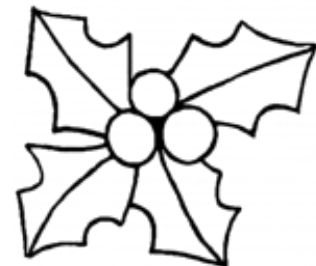
The issue also covers events and we look forward to seeing you at the BRA Christmas Carols this year. Do mark your diary for 19 December.

We are also using this issue as a chance to say thank you to BRA committee member Ruth Sands, who has done a fantastic job in overseeing newsletter distribution in recent years. And with a goodbye we say a hello to Ann McLarty, who will be taking on the role from the New Year. Thank you Ruth, and welcome Ann.



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Remember to visit the New BRA Website!

The BRA's new website has gone live. Please have a look at:
www.belsize.org.uk.

Thanks to all the Committee members who helped to set it up. Special thanks to Kathy Clauss for running the old site and for helping us to conceptualise the new site too.



Sir Richard Steele Pub

We reported in the August Newsletter that the Sir Richard Steele Pub has been listed as an Asset of Community Value by Camden. The owners have decided to appeal the listing to the First-Tier Tribunal. Camden applied for the BRA to be a party to the appeal and we accepted the invitation. This means that we will appear at the case, which will be heard in the General Regulatory Chamber of the Tribunal next year. We are in the process of drafting our written case which must be filed in advance. If you have relevant skills that may assist our team working on the appeal, or access to low cost photocopying, please contact info@belsize.org.uk.

Voter Registration Changes

Elections for the new mayor of London are due next year, but you will not be able to vote if you are not on the electoral register. Voter registration now has to be done individually not by household, and people risk falling off the electoral register. The transition period to individual electoral registration ends on December 1st 2015, one year earlier than scheduled. You can find out if you're still on the electoral roll, and how to register, via <http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/> or by contacting the Electoral Registration Officer Camden Electoral Services Room 11 Camden Town Hall, Judd Street, London

Belsize Remembered - Reminiscences of 20th Century

A message from Raneë Barr.

It is time to let you know how the book 'Belsize Remembered' is progressing. The group have collected stories and articles from people who have lived in this wonderful area at one time or another and from people who still live here. As a history book it is the voice of local people and a reminder for generations of times here in Belsize. We are still keen to receive memories and article and anything you think worthy of recording, so get writing! You can send these to email:

Belsizeremembered@gmail.com - or call Raneë on 207586 0245 for more information.

It is hoped to print the book soon, however we are short of funds. Therefore we are kindly requesting donations to help us print the book. People who donate will have their name mentioned in the book, and anyone donating over £25 will get a free copy. Please make your cheques payable to 'BELSIZE PLUG 20100700' and send to:

Raneë Barr, 61 Holmefield Court, Belsize Grove, London NW3 4TU.

The group will also soon be looking for help with distributing donation flyers in the area.



HS2 Committee reaches London

The HS2 Select Committee will shortly be hearing from petitioners in Camden. The work of the Committee started at the Birmingham end of the route, so some of the working practices for hearing petitioners are now established. For example, it is likely that BRA will join other petitioners and be heard as part of a group of local organisations. We may also be better served if another group that shares our views becomes the nominated lead. We are now establishing contact with groups suggested by the Committee to explore all this. The main points we will raise are the loss of part of the valuable Adelaide Road nature reserve and the impact of the construction on traffic in the area. We expect the hearing to occur before the next newsletter.

100 Avenue Road update

We reported on the public inquiry in the August Newsletter. We are now awaiting a decision. An announcement is due in November, after Communities and Local Government minister, Greg Clark, has considered the report provided by the planning inspector. We are very grateful to members who have written to the Department expressing their concerns and hope this has an impact. Members might also be able to support our partner in the appeal, Save Swiss Cottage Action Group, who are still raising funds to meet some outstanding costs from the inquiry. If you can help, then cheques made out to Save Swiss Cottage Action Group can be sent c/o The Treasurer, David Reed, Flat 2, 56 Eton Avenue, NW3 3HN; or by Bank Transfer to: NatWest Sort code 51-50-10 Account number 66231248; or in Person at: NatWest, Swiss Cottage Branch, 106 Finchley Road, NW3 5JN.



Changes to Local Planning updates

Camden Council are consulting on their Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), which they plan to update with a view to making savings. The Statement proposes changes which include stopping sending neighbour notification letters for planning applications. They are seeking to replace these with improved email alerts and advertising in the Camden New Journal and the Ham and High. More details are available: <http://www.camden.gov.uk/SCI>, where you can complete the online survey. Deadline is 5pm on Wednesday 20 January 2016 with a workshop at 5 Pancras Square or Swiss Cottage Library on Wednesday 18 November and Thursday 26 November between 4:30pm and 7:30pm.

Do you have experience in planning? We are keen to involve members in responding to a wide range of planning issues on behalf of BRA, so please contact info@belsize.org.uk if you would like to help.



Winch's North Camden Zone Project

Do you remember your first childhood memory? Do you have a favourite moment that stands out?

North Camden Zone is a new initiative covering Belsize and a number of surrounding wards, inviting local people to play a role in making sure that every child in our area has a happy childhood.

Made up of a wide coalition of families, residents and local organisations, North Camden Zone is supported by Camden Council and Camden Clinical Commissioning Group and convened by The Winch, bringing people together to help answer the question: how can we make this a great place to grow up for every child?



People have been dropping into the Winch and pinning community activities in their area

Over the past six months, the project team has had conversations with over 300 local people and 50 organisations. They've introduced people to each other, held meals and sourced ideas around what we can do together to 'build the village' that helps raise children and young people who benefit from and give back to society.

Over the coming months, the team will be bringing together this range of 'unusual suspects' to look at what more can be done to make North Camden Zone a great place to grow up and we would love members of Belsize Residents Association to get involved.

Winch's Cherrie Salmon says: "The BRA is a terrific, civic-minded organisation with enormous goodwill, energy and expertise: a group of people who care about our area and those growing up in it. Whether it is by dropping into our shop, visiting our website or adding comments to our local map, we'd love to hear from you."

The project is inviting families, residents, those old and young to find out more about North Camden Zone. As the proverb says, 'it takes a village to raise a child'. Do join in. For more information, please go to:

www.northcamdenzone.org (main website)

<https://northcamdenzone.commonplace.is/comments> (to add your comments to our map)



NOTICE OF BELISZE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMMITTEE EVENT SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

11am onwards BUDGENS FOOD FAIR

Sample interesting, local produce - face painting - henna design - and more

4pm COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS GATHERING

Sing-a-long for Christmas - lucky dip - baked goods - German waffles

The organizers are in need of volunteers to help set up the Christmas lights, distribute flyers and help at the event.

Donations towards the event's Christmas Lights fund are gratefully received. Please donate cash at Pomona and other local shops.

Cheques payable to "Belsize Christmas Lights Committee" and enquiries via dijyager@yahoo.co.uk

Low-energy, high warmth Coach House visit

It looks like a normal, tastefully furnished home, but tucked away in every room of John and Zoe Doggart's home are clever gadgets and tricks that have enabled them to reduce their energy consumption by up to 70 per cent. How's it done? That's what eight BRA members hoped to find out when they took up the invitation to visit the Coach House (2A Belsize Park Gardens) on 20 October. The Doggarts are appreciative long-time BRA members, and gave us a very warm welcome - literally, because adaptations and gadgets used in the house mean it's always at a comfortable temperature.



Many thanks to John and Zoe Doggart for opening their home to BRA members

Originally a Victorian coach house, the building has undergone many changes in its lifetime, the latest of which took place when the Doggarts decided to convert it into an energy-efficient home. Some improvements they have made could only practically be done as part of a modernisation project, but the principles of draught proofing and insulation can be applied anywhere, as can choosing a good A-rated boiler, low-energy lighting, water saving and the use of an energy monitor to track down the most wasteful appliances - including gadgets that use a lot of energy while they're not doing anything.

Many a notebook was filled with ideas and detailed information to take home, and we all felt we'd had thoroughly enjoyable and useful evening.

Get involved in your neighbourhood!

BRA Christmas Carols

Nothing welcomes the festive season like the annual BRA Christmas carol singing event! So we are once again inviting local residents to join us for an evening of merry singing and delicious mince pies. Spread the word and the Christmas cheer.

Saturday 19 December at 4.30pm
Belsize Village (Belsize Terrace)
Collection in aid of Eden Hall Marie Curie
Hospital



ALFRED! - a masque by Thomas Arne

This lovely 3 act work, dating, in this version, from 1753, is full of sparkling and tuneful music and is best known for 'Rule Britannia'. Hugely popular at the time, it became known to the public in many forms, being performed as a full scale opera many times at Drury Lane. It was conceived as a deeply patriotic allegorical work, a stirring tale of Anglo-Saxon warfare and bucolic love. It is imaginatively scored for oboes, bassoons, flutes, horns, trumpets and drums

More information on page 8.

BRA Needs Your Help

We are always looking for help both with running BRA and in individual activities of the Association.

If you are interested in running BRA, join the Committee! The Committee has a variety of roles and we are more than happy to discuss these.

Other BRA roles include helping out at events, delivering the newsletter and writing for the newsletter. If you are interested in arranging an event, we are always keen to hear ideas. Perhaps you might like to lead a walk in Belsize or arrange a speaker or speak yourself.

At the moment, we are looking for help in storing materials used by us in events. There are about five boxes of crockery and tea making equipment, all boxed. Ideally, they could find a home nearer ground level as, at the moment, they are stored in an attic and keeping us pretty fit ascending four floors!

To find out more, contact us by email at info@belsize.org.uk or call the phone numbers on the back page.



Belsize Park Library updates

The Friends of Belsize Community Library are looking for volunteers to join the committee or to help at events (serving refreshments, helping with set up etc). They have also initiated a survey to find out what people think about the events programme.

If you would like to complete the survey you can find it online:
www.friendsofbelsizelibrary.com/

Future scheduled events are:

For further information please contact Christina McKenzie -
chrysia2@aol.com



Sounds of the Sea Concert

Saturday, 28th November

The Bloomsbury Woodwind Ensemble presents a varied programme inspired by the sea. Join for an enchanting evening!

St John's Church
Waterloo
SE1 8TY

7.30 pm

£10 (adult) £8 (concession) on the door or online:

www.bloomsburymusicgroup.org.uk/

Belsize Library Upcoming Events

- Wednesday 18 November. Ken McMullen (film director): Ghosts and Cinema.

- Wednesday 9 December - Afternoon. Mad Hatter's Tea Party Evening. Colin Pinney. Alice in Wonderland Newly Illustrated

- Wednesday 20 January Alan Brownjohn and others (Poetry and Music)

- Wednesday 17 February Ruth Waterman Deep Listening. Deep Connections

- Wednesday 17 March . Tudor Allen: Camden and its Street Names





Dates for your diary

ALFRED! - a masque by Thomas Arne

+ Sunday 15 November

St Stephen's, Hampstead

6.30 - 8.30pm

Ticket price: Up to £15

Details: www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/199634

The Belsize Park Film Society

+ Every Tuesday

The Old Town Hall, NW3 4QP

7pm

Tickets: £5 on the door

Sounds of the Sea - Bloomsbury Woodwind Ensemble

+ Saturday 28 November

St John's Church, Waterloo

7.30pm

Tickets: £10 (adult), £8 (concession)

Street Art Walking Tour

+ Saturday 28 November

Camden Station meeting point

11am - 1pm

£10 (adults), free (children)

Hampstead Christmas Fair

+ Sunday 29 November

Hampstead High Street

12pm onwards

BRA Christmas Carols

+ Saturday 19 December

Belsize Village

4.30pm

BRA COMMITTEE

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www.belsize.org.uk