

BELSIZE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

February 2017

Notes from your Chair

Welcome to the February Newsletter.

It was great that so many of you could make BRA carol singing (see page 2). You joined us in fine voice and in great numbers. It was also a successful fundraiser for the Marie Curie Hospice. With BRA help, Christmas lights adorned the Terrace and will continue to do so until March.

Since the last issue, we have been getting ready for the Annual General Meeting. Papers are enclosed with this newsletter. You'll see that we're encouraging members to join the committee (page 2). Do feel free to contact any of the present committee members if you think you may wish to help.

Some planning issues are covered in this newsletter, such as an update on the Save our Streets campaign. We have a piece in memory of our past membership secretary and BRA activist Lois Dyer.

Finally, I hope to see many of you at the AGM: a chance to socialise over the irresistible tea and cakes.

www.belsize.org.uk

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BRA Annual General Meeting

Sunday 5 March
Belsize Square Synagogue
(Please note different venue from past years)
3.00pm
Followed by refreshments and a chance to meet other members'
BRA members only



Carol Singing in Belsize Village

The Association's Christmas Carol Singing was a great success this year, raising over £350 for the Marie Curie Hospice. The weather was fine and there was a good turnout. Thanks are due to Handley Stevens and family for making it such an enjoyable event.



Thank you to all who attended and contributed to the event!

Join the BRA Committee!

Would you like to help steer the Association? We'd be delighted to welcome members to shape what we do through joining the new 2017/18 BRA Committee. We're always on the lookout for people with an interest in BRA work, such as representing resident views to Camden, organising events and contributing to the Newsletter. We're also keen to refresh what the Association does for the members so open to new roles.

If you would like to stand for the Committee or just find out more about what the Committee does, then please contact Prabhat, on 07930 406230. He can also provide nomination forms.

Tradesmen You Can Trust 2017

Sadly, towards the end of last year, just too late for November's Newsletter, we received news that Tony Gotlop, the artist of the quirky drawings on the covers of our "Tradesmen" booklet, had died at the end of October. We're sure you will join us in sending sincere condolences to his wife and family.

Now, we need help in compiling the 2017 issue of TYCT, due out with your May Newsletter. Are you able to remember all the repairs and renovations done to your home and garden during the last year? And can you remember the tradesmen who did the work and whether that work was good, bad or indifferent? We need to know how our listed tradesmen are doing and we need lots of new ones too, to replace those who have had no recommendations for three years. So please tell us who you've used and whether you would recommend them to your fellow BRA members.

You can give us the information by completing the form enclosed with this Newsletter, sending an email with full details to TYCT@belsize.org.uk or downloading the form on the website: www.belsize.org.uk>AboutUs>Publications.

Rubbish and recycling: new arrangements come into effect in April

Many BRA members are affected by Camden's new rubbish and recycling contract which will come into effect on 1 April. Camden's website says that streets with enough street-level houses with room to store a wheelie bin will move to fortnightly collections. Recycling and food waste will continue to be collected weekly. Households without space to store a wheelie bin will be provided with orange Camden branded rubbish bags, which will be collected fortnightly or weekly depending on the location. Residents should be provided with enough orange bags to use up to two bags each week. Bags will be delivered every six months. If you need more bags within six months, you need to buy them online. The new contract will also introduce an optional, paid-for weekly garden waste collection.

Camden says that the new contract is more innovative and flexible than previous contracts, enabling Camden to see what works and what does not work. The system may be modified where necessary and the service will be reviewed every year.

Belsize Village Noticeboard

Judith Nasatyr is standing down as the Belsize Village Noticeboard co-organiser. The BRA Committee extends its warmest thanks to Judith for all her hard work in this important role. If you are interested in helping to put notices on the board and in keeping it tidy, please contact info@belsize.org.uk.



Leave the Ivy!

Please remember that in winter, according to the RSPB, ivy provides food and shelter for birds and other wildlife, especially if a bit overgrown. Do try to resist the urge to tidy it up until the spring, and I am sure the birds will be grateful.

Want to find and comment on a planning application to Camden?

You can search for planning applications using Camden's online search facility. Visit: planningrecords.camden.gov.uk/Northgate/PlanningExplorer17/GeneralSearch. It is helpful if you know the application number because using that number is the quickest way to search the online form. You do not need to enter any other information when you use the application number. You can also use the site address (such as house number, street name or post code) or date of application. Other search tips are to be found above the search facility.

Have questions about the new rubbish and recycling arrangements? Come along to a roadshow to ask Camden. There is a roadshow on Wednesday 15 February 2017 at 88 Avenue Road, NW3 3HA, from 3pm to 6pm. You can check how your household will be affected by using the online address checker available on Camden's website.

Camden Safer Neighbourhood Board: dates for your diary

Thursday 23 February: 7.00 pm, venue TBC

TOPIC: The Mayor of London is consulting on his draft Policing Plan for London. The CSNB wants to include your views in its response to the Mayor so that resources are targeted at the crimes that concern Camden residents the most. More information and a copy of the draft plan are available on the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime website, where you can complete your own response using their online survey.

Thursday 23 March: 7.00 pm, the Salvation Army Hall, 10-16 Haverstock Hill, Chalk Farm, London NW3 2BL

TOPIC: Areas of Camden have a booming night-life attracting hundreds of thousands of people every week. As well as public order and drug dealing problems that are associated with the night-time economy, residents living in proximity to these areas suffer from noise and antisocial behaviour. In the four years since the first meeting on the night-time economy there have been many initiatives and changes. Come and share experiences and find out if there have been any improvements.

Business burglaries

Members may be aware of the spate of break-ins to Belsize business premises that took place in December/January. Businesses in Belsize Village and Englands Lane were particularly targeted. A meeting to discuss possible actions was held on 25 January, involving local traders, residents and representatives of the police and Council. A BRA committee member attended. Among additional security measures proposed was the creation of a Business Watch scheme with posters. We will keep members posted on developments.

PLANNING MATTERS

Update from TfL on Proposals for Cycle Superhighway Route 11 at Swiss Cottage

Transport for London has decided to proceed with the majority of the proposals as they were outlined during the CS11 consultation. In relation to Swiss Cottage, TfL has made a number of changes to the proposals in response to issues raised during consultation. There was concern among local residents that there would be an increase in traffic in some minor roads. Having reviewed the designs, TfL now plans to allow motor traffic to make two turns that it had originally proposed to ban. Traffic modelling indicates that allowing these turns will significantly reduce the amount of traffic reassigning into nearby minor roads. It will also improve access for local people who want to reach destinations to the west of Swiss Cottage.

However, allowing these turns will change the journey time impacts of the scheme: some journey times for buses and motor traffic are predicted to increase, particularly for vehicles travelling east on Hilgrove Road. TfL will therefore be looking into whether it is possible to design the junction so that the right turn from Finchley Road into Hilgrove Road could be banned on a part-time basis. The latest traffic modelling information is available on TfL's website.

Changing Our Association's Constitution

The Belsize Residents' Association constitution is to be discussed at the Annual General Meeting, 5 March. The committee have been looking at changes. A first aspect - the organisational form - was discussed in the August newsletter. We see the benefits of becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with members.

This issue we look at changes to the constitution. The committee are keen to update the objectives in the constitution so that it reflects the organisation's current role. While doing that, a second strand is to modernise the way it is written.

A first point is that much of the constitution can be taken, unaltered, from the templates provided on the government website. The Charities Commission is supporting CIOs, especially to ensure organisations can be set up as easily as possible, and the documents are helpful in drafting a new constitution.

We have compared the present BRA arrangements to that suggested in these documents.

The Association already has a governance structures (such as a committee, general meeting, etc) that are in accordance with the recommended approaches. Further, what the templates add are details and specific rules about appointment procedures, governance, membership and decision making which are acceptable and sensible. It would be good for our constitution to be clearer on such matters. We have particularly been looking at the CIO template: how trustees of the CIO oversee the Association to meet its objectives, and the role of members who join the Association.

A key question is therefore exactly what our objectives should be, and we suggest five of them (in the box).

What happens next? We'll describe the work we've been doing at the AGM and then suggest a timetable over the summer to progress this further. Were we to go ahead with the changes, we'd need to call an extraordinary meeting.

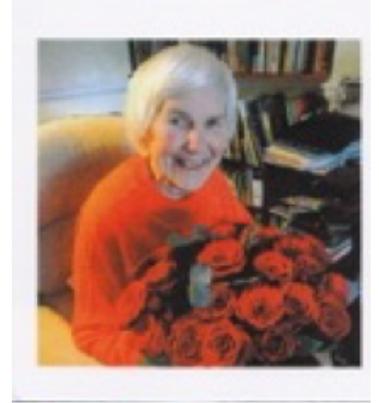
Draft Objectives for the BRA

1. To preserve and improve the character and amenities of Belsize Ward, its adjacent areas and its historical environs, promoting the area's prosperity and vigour.
2. To act to maintain, defend and improve public services within Belsize Ward, its adjacent areas and its historical environs;
3. To promote standards of architecture, conservation, planning, design, maintenance and use of buildings and infrastructure compatible with the character and quality of life in and/or affecting Belsize Ward, its adjacent areas and its historical environs.
4. To enhance the community life of Belsize Ward, its adjacent areas and its historical environs by providing useful and relevant local information.
5. To foster community spirit amongst those resident or interested in Belsize Ward, its adjacent areas and its historical environs by organising lectures, visits and other events.

Lois Dyer, OBE

Deborah Buzan writes: Lois Dyer, who died in July at the age of 91, made an important contribution to physiotherapy in this country and was active in the field for many years.

Lois made an important contribution to BRA, too. For nearly 15 years, until 2010, she served as its membership secretary, and many members will remember when they first encountered her - and her remarkably warm smile - as she welcomed them into the Association.



She continued to make a positive impression on members. In the early days of BRA, she would circulate at the teas that followed talks or walks, and at the garden party and the AGM, and would introduce herself and engage in conversation. More recently, she would be seated less informally at the door to sign in arrivals but was no less welcoming. She had an encyclopaedic knowledge of the membership and would often surprise members by remembering not only their names but their addresses as well.

Lois moved to Belsize Park in the early sixties and bought a garden flat in Belsize Grove. She joined BRA in the early 80s, not long after it was formed. She loved the area and took a real interest in local issues, which made her an invaluable member of the committee. With Brom, her partner of over 40 years, she set up the database for the membership, a big timesaver for the committee and helpers. Together she and Brom prepared the envelopes for the delivery of the Newsletters. Lois also represented BRA on the Royal Free Hospital Liaison Group, building on her professional contacts.

She first practiced physiotherapy in the UK before working abroad, including in Cairo, Marrakech and South Africa. After settling in London, she worked as physio at the 1948 Olympic Games, where she was responsible for both the Australian and French teams. Her election to Chair of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, which she held from 1972 to 1975, gave her deserved status, as did her work at the Department of Health.

Helped by Brom, also an active and influential physiotherapist in her own right, Lois managed to convince the Department of Health that physiotherapy deserved to become autonomous from the medical profession. As such, she made a lasting contribution to the field.

BRA members won't forget her lasting contribution to the Association.

The BRA Committee writes: It was Lois' warmth, friendliness and radiant smile that introduced so many members to the BRA over so many years. She was the welcoming face of BRA to enquirers, new members and at BRA events. Her musicality meant that her support of the annual BRA carol singing was much appreciated. She was always very committed to the Belsize area and concerned to find ways of addressing local issues. As a member of the BRA committee she was also very supportive to all her colleagues.

Get involved in your neighbourhood!

Save our Streets: www.saveourstreets.co.uk

By BRA member Robert Leeming

I am a local resident in the Eton conservation area who has moved in recently. It's a beautiful area and a pleasure to live in; however I have been shocked and surprised by the nature of the traffic that flows through the Eton Conservation Area as a cut through. It causes vibration and subsidence of the houses, significant air and noise pollution, danger to locals crossing roads, consistently breaches existing usage restrictions and frequently breaches the 20mph limits. These are side streets which are residential. Not main thoroughfares. They should be treated and used as such.

Two independent reports have been commissioned:

1. A vibration report indicates that 15 out of 250 passing vehicles deliver a vibration to houses at a level greater than British Standards allow.
2. A traffic consultant has been commissioned to review local traffic flows.

Furthermore, as the Camden Clean Air policy shows, local NO2 levels are above standards as well. The key problem identified is the junction between Adelaide Road and Haverstock Hill. No left turn from Adelaide to Haverstock or right from Adelaide to Haverstock (other than up a small side road) can be done. The banned left-hand turn at Chalk Farm station is a relic of 1960s Smeed traffic engineering, when the idea was that you could save money by diverting traffic into quiet residential streets, and thereby not have to upgrade main roads and main road junctions. Not a good era.

Save our Streets therefore proposes:

1. A redesign of the Chalk Farm junction. It is possible to redesign Chalk Farm junction to become an 'all ways' junction allowing the right/left turn on to Haverstock and Adelaide road for all vehicles.
2. A subsequent prevention of through traffic through Eton Conservation (mainly on Steeles and Eton road in particular).

This will prevent large scale HGVs going down small side roads and solve the weight and scale of traffic flows. Furthermore, with the advent of HS2 traffic flows (closing off the bottom of Eton road), there is no better time to reconsider the Chalk Farm junction and area and its impact locally. This requires the support of the council and TfL. And HS2 has a funding element for community spaces (£30m) that can support this financially alongside other funding sources.

I am sure we can do something to save this Conservation area from becoming ruined like so many others in London. We are keen to gain signatures to then approach local Ward councillors, TfL and MPs to enact change. We will be circulating leaflets through doors in the coming weeks for signature. Our proposals can be seen at www.saveourstreets.co.uk. All support is highly welcome. Do email any questions or thoughts to info@saveourstreets.co.uk

Need to know

Dates for your diary

Emily's Walking Book Club: Sunday 19th February

Join other book-lovers for a walk on Hampstead Heath to discuss Elizabeth Taylor's beautifully observed novel *A View of the Harbour*. Meet at 11.30am - 12.30pm at Daunt Books South End Road

Yoga classes at Belsize Library: Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Yoga With Charli offers classes for all levels at Belsize Library. For more information visit www.yogawithcharli.com

Belsize Residents' Association AGM: Sunday 5th March

Join fellow BRA members at Belsize Square Synagogue at 3:00pm to discuss local matters and have your views heard. BRA members only.

London squares & town houses in the 17th and 18th centuries - Philippa Barton: Tuesday 7th March

This talk will look at the rise of estates and townhouses built in the 17th & 18th centuries. Held in St John's Wood Church Hall, St. John's Wood Roundabout, NW8 7NE at 8.00pm. Coffee is served from 7.30pm.

Interested in keeping up with Belsize news and events? Do we have your email address? If we have your email address, we will send you occasional emails with news about Belsize and BRA. If you wish to receive emails and are not already on our list, please send your email address to info@belsize.org.uk.

To find out the latest about Camden Planning: <https://www.camden.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/environment/planning-and-built-environment/>

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