

# BELSIZE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

## NEWSLETTER

May 2013

### Notes from your Chairwoman

I have been recalling my first memories of Belsize, some from long before I lived here. This was prompted by the Belsize Library project to produce a book of local reminiscences. Why not share your memories? Together we could tell an amazing story (see page 4 for more about this exciting venture). I am delighted that two new members have joined the committee. They are Judith Farbey, who is taking a lead on council services issues, and Neil Harris, who is replacing Jill Tyrrell as our treasurer.



**Spring at last:  
the sun came  
out, and so  
did the Swiss  
Cottage cherry  
blossom**

Over the summer, Camden Council will deliver wheelie bins for recycling. If you have been offered one, but don't have the space for it, do let them know. We don't want the area to become cluttered with surplus bins. For more information, see page 6, where you'll also find the latest news we have about local police and fire services.

The 2013 edition of Tradesmen You Can Trust is enclosed with this Newsletter (more on page 3). We hope you will find it useful, and that will continue to support it by sharing your recommendations.

Also included with this issue is a new leaflet about BRA. Please give it to a neighbour who you think

might be interested, and let us know if you'd like extra copies.

Finally, do put our summer garden party on 30 June in your diary. I hope to see you there.



### JOIN US, PLEASE! Summer Garden Party

**Sunday 30 June  
3pm to 5.30pm  
14 Antrim Grove, NW3 4XR**

**BRA MEMBERS ONLY**

*Non-members are welcome to join at the gate*

	page
The BRAAGM and 20mph limits -	2
Eton College Estate history walk -	3
Tradesmen You Can Trust -	3
Wanted: your Belsize memories -	4
Parkhill/Upper Park conservation -	5
New BRA leaflet -	5
Blue plaques, new and requested -	5
Fire station consultation -	6
Police service changes -	6
Wheelie bins, recycling rules -	6/7
Garden party -	7
St Peter's Arts Week -	7
Who's who and diary dates -	8

# Talking Belsize: our Annual General Meeting

Chairwoman Averil Nottage reported on the BRA year at our AGM on 10 March, and members took the opportunity to raise local issues before the traditional tea and cakes



On display: pictures of our nominations to the Local List of notable buildings currently being compiled by Camden

At a packed meeting in Hampstead Town Hall, Jill Tyrrell was thanked for her many years of service as our treasurer (see below) and two new committee members were introduced: Neil Harris, who moves straight into the treasurer slot, and Judith Farbey.

Members heard about a campaign to have stronger planning rules applied to Parkhill and Upper Park Conservation Area (see page 5) and about a project launched by the Belsize Community Library to produce and publish a book of reminiscences of Belsize Park, to be entitled Belsize Remembered (see page 4).

Among other topics raised by members were basements. It appears that Camden Council's refusals of permission for basements are being

overturned by Planning Inspectors at appeal. It was noted that this is an issue elsewhere in London and nationally, and BRA should seek to be part of any national campaign against inappropriate basement development. There were also concerns about proposals for the redevelopment of the former florist's site next to Belsize Park Station and the mix of retail outlets in Belsize Park.

**Yes to a borough-wide 20mph speed limit: that was the verdict of the majority of members present (around 85 in total). But there were concerns about how rigorously it would be policed**



---

## Treasured treasurer Jill takes a farewell bow

When Jill Tyrrell stood down from the BRA committee, we knew she'd be a hard act to follow. Jill became treasurer at the end of 2005, having joined the committee that May. 'She has always kept our accounts in very good order, and she's handing over the finances in an extremely healthy state,' says Averil Nottage. 'She also took on other responsibilities, such as the lead role in updating BRA's database and website and organising catering for events. Jill does not seek the limelight, but has worked tirelessly and conscientiously to ensure that our arrangements run smoothly. We wish her health and happiness in the future.'



**In the limelight for once: Jill Tyrrell bowed out from the committee, taking with her the thanks and appreciation of everyone at the meeting**

## Sunshine and local secrets: our Eton College Estate history walk

Weren't we lucky, the 75 of us who stepped out from the corner of Eton Villas and Steele's Road on 14 April? Not only was the sun shining but we also had a fascinating talk from Aileen Hammond as we walked, not to mention a delicious tea at Sarum Hall school afterwards.

Sadly, there isn't space to do more than pick out a couple of key points from the talk - such as how, in 1449, Henry VI granted to Eton College the piece of land which became the Estate that still bears its name.

It was the 1830s before the first buildings were put up, around the same time that the London-to-Birmingham Railway was carved straight across the middle of the Estate. In the process, our area gained a tremendous but hidden asset, the Primrose Hill Tunnel, designed by Robert Stephenson (no, not George), which we were lucky enough to glimpse through



Photograph: Adrian Seal

the as-yet leafless branches at the side of Primrose Hill Road (see below). We heard the unfortunate tale of the maisonettes that had been built over the tunnel and collapsed in 1976, and the much older story of the uncharitable Eton College surveyor who was against having mews near the houses, because people living there might expect the Estate to provide a school for their children!



### Looking for a tradesman? Ask a BRA member!

The special treat with this issue is your copy of our **Tradesmen You Can Trust** booklet for 2013. It comes to you courtesy of its compiler, Sarah Courtin, and all the other BRA members who took the trouble to contribute details of new tradesmen and reviews of those already listed. As a result of your efforts, this edition includes more tradesmen than ever, all of whom have done good quality work and given good service to BRA members. This year, there are more than 180 listed, including 40 new ones, and we have added two new categories: Pest Control and Furniture Makers and Restorers.

Inevitably, we have also lost some tradesmen, either because of negative reviews or because we had received no feedback about them for more than three years. It is a dilemma for us to decide whether to include tradesmen if we haven't had any reviews of them for a few years: we neither want to lose valued tradesmen nor keep repeating information that is out of date. In response to discussions at the AGM, we have left in tradesmen for a third year, but indicated whether it is the second or third year they've been included without a new recommendation (details are on the **TYCT** contents page). You can help us overcome this problem by always remembering to send us your views about the tradesmen you use. There is a recommendation form inside the booklet or you can download one from the BRA website, or send information by email to [TYCT@belsize.org.uk](mailto:TYCT@belsize.org.uk).

In the meantime, we hope you will find all the worthwhile tradesmen you need this year within the covers of **Tradesmen You Can Trust 2013**.



# Share your memories of Belsize

If you haven't met anyone from the Belsize Reminiscence Group yet, you soon will, because they're after your memories, and they plan to publish them in a book about the history of Belsize from the 20th century to the present

Myra Newman, Rane Barr, BRA member Anne Ward and librarian Cina Aissa are the Belsize Library Reminiscence Group. They're collecting contributions for a book about our area, and they need yours by 10 July.

Did you grow up here? Or come to work or live? What springs to mind when you look back? A special shop or pub? The annual Belsize Festivals? The characters you met? At least one BRA member has already contributed (*see right for an extract*).

Write down your memories and hand them over in the Library or make a date, through librarian Cina Aissa, to come and talk to one of the team. If you're prepared to lend photographs, drawings or other pictures, they will be gratefully received and carefully looked after. Don't forget to give them your name and address and/or phone number

For more information, email  
[belsizeremembered@gmail.com](mailto:belsizeremembered@gmail.com)



Belsize Community Library (Antrim Road, NW3 4XN, open Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10am to 6pm) is the place, and librarian Cina Aissa is your contact point. You can join Reminiscence Sessions on Wednesday 15 May and Wednesday 19 June, from 1pm to 3pm

**Your memories will appear in a book to be called Belsize Remembered, modelled on Primrose Hill Remembered (right). It's due to be published by the end of the year and your contributions are needed by Wednesday 10 July!**

Primrose Hill  
remembered

foreword by Simon Jenkins



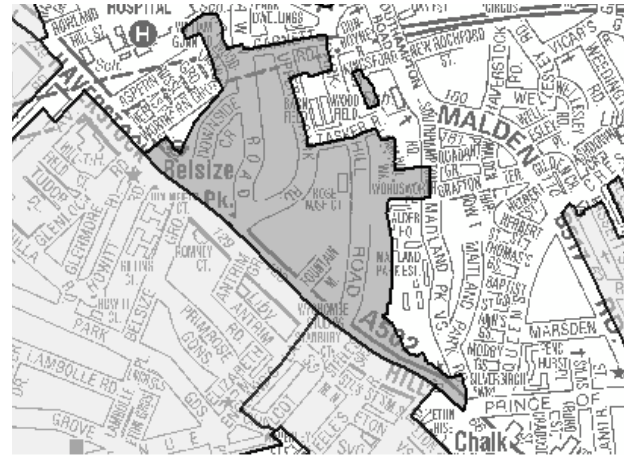
'In the early 1970s I would go with a gang of friends to Conrad's Bistro, a cheap and cheerful French restaurant in the cellar. The tables were in vaulted alcoves with gingham cloths and candles stuck in a wax encrusted wine bottle. We also went to Falafels, an Israeli restaurant on Haverstock Hill, a couple of doors down from the Sir Richard Steele pub. Looking back, it doesn't seem very exciting, but Middle Eastern food was rare and exotic then. I don't think Conrad's Bistro survived the 70s, but Falafels lasted for another 35 years.

When I moved to Belsize in the 1990s, the area felt very continental. There were cafes with tables on the pavements and Crispin's, the supermarket in Englands Lane, was open every day from first thing in the morning until late at night. Barratt's the butchers still had their cashier, Hilda, sitting in a little wooden cubicle to collect our money. She had worked there for about 70 years by the time she finally retired.' **Averil Nottage**



# Help Parkhill and Upper Park buildings gain better protection

Do you live in the Parkhill and Upper Park Conservation Area? Would you be willing to support a campaign to help conserve local buildings? If so, your support is needed now!



Reproduced by permission of Geographers' A-Z Map Co. Ltd. Licence No. D0627. This product includes mapping data licensed from Ordnance Survey®  
©Crown Copyright 2005. Licence number 100017302

The land on both sides of Haverstock Hill was originally all part of the historic Belsize Estate, but the buildings in the Parkhill and Upper Park Conservation Area (shaded darker on the map, right) don't have the same protection as those in the Belsize CA. BRA member Gene Adams is campaigning for extra planning restrictions, called Article 4 directions, to apply in the Parkhill and Upper Park CA.

Article 4 Directions were introduced in the Belsize CA in 2010. What that means is that householders need planning permission before making changes to the appearance of their property. It does not prevent all changes, but ensures that all alterations are properly designed and approved. We agree that the same protection needs to be extended to the Parkhill and Upper Park CA, in order to preserve the character of the area.

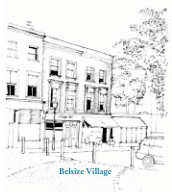
Camden currently has no plans to make further Article 4 directions in conservation areas. So a very strong case needs to be made, supported by local councillors, before the Council

will consider providing the necessary resources for this - and reducing residents' rights to develop their properties without planning permission.

To make the case for Article 4, a survey would need to demonstrate that developments taking place under the current planning arrangements are eroding the character and appearance of the area. If you would be interested in being part of a small group to undertake a photographic survey of the area and collect information about properties at risk, please contact Gene Adams on 7722 0328 or email [info@belsize.org.uk](mailto:info@belsize.org.uk).

## Meet more Belsize neighbours!

### BELSIZE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



Working to preserve  
and enhance our  
neighbourhood

With this Newsletter you'll find a copy of our new leaflet explaining what Belsize Residents' Association is all about, who it's for and how to join. If you'd like more copies to give to your neighbours, please ring Aileen Barry on 07747 462127 or email [info@belsize.org.uk](mailto:info@belsize.org.uk).

## Singing the blue-plaque blues?

At the AGM (page 2), one member reported that English Heritage were being encouraged, despite technical and financial obstacles, to affix a blue plaque to the Isokon flats in Lawn Road (pictured, right) to commemorate the distinguished architects and artists who had lived there.



Among a handful of plaques that were put up in Camden recently is one for Leslie 'Hutch' Hutchinson (1900-1969), singer and pianist, at 31 Steele's Road.

## UPDATE: Belsize fire station

*Will it close?  
There's still  
time to have  
your say!*



As reported in previous Newsletters, the fire station in Lancaster Grove is threatened with closure as part of London-wide spending cuts. Now you can have your say by responding to the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority's consultation, available from [www.london-fire.gov.uk/](http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/), or as a hard copy by

phoning 0800 9888 569. The closing date for responses is 28 May.

As part of the consultation, a series of public meetings will be held in different London boroughs. In Camden, the meeting will take place on Thursday, 30 May, 7pm to 9pm at McNamara Suite, London Irish Centre, 50-52 Camden Square, London NW1 9XB.

The Fire Brigades Union is proposing a march in Belsize Park on 25 May to protest against the closure. For more information, check the [www.saveourstations.org.uk](http://www.saveourstations.org.uk) website or contact the FBU organiser Ben Sprung at [ben.sprung@fbu.org.uk](mailto:ben.sprung@fbu.org.uk).

---

## UPDATE: Hampstead police station

*The station  
building will  
close, and  
changes are  
afoot in the  
meantime*



After years of rumours, we now know that Hampstead Police Station will definitely close, although this is unlikely to happen before a number of changes to local policing have taken place. Kentish Town police station is to stay open 24/7, rather than just during office hours as previously suggested. There are to be contact points to report non-urgent matters at the Swiss Cottage Safer Neighbourhood Team

base and, it is hoped, at the Royal Free Hospital. These contact points will be open from 7pm to 8pm on Wednesdays and Fridays and 2pm to 3pm on Saturdays.

From June, the Safer Neighbourhood Teams will be restructured, with a part-time sergeant, a constable and a community support officer for each ward and about 30 other officers allocated to a 'cluster' of about six wards. Safer Neighbourhood Panels will no longer set ward priorities, but the Inspector for the 'cluster' may make 'promises'. We are waiting to hear which other wards will be clustered with Belsize. The priority for BRA is for the police to be accessible and responsive to local needs. It is also important that they work seamlessly across wards. We will monitor how the new cluster arrangements work in practice.

---

## *Recycling changes wheeled out*

For some of us, this summer will herald the end of blue bags and green boxes for our household recycling, in favour of big green wheelie bins designed to hold paper and card as well as plastic, metal and glass. But don't panic if this is new to you or you don't think it would be practical in your case. Despite initial misunderstandings, only households that want wheelie bins need to have them. Neighbours can share bins, and people who would need help taking the bin to the edge of their property

can request assisted collection. Just respond to your letter from Camden or write to: Environment Services, Roy Shaw Centre, 3-5 Cressy Road, London, NW3 2ND or email [recyclingiseasy@camden.gov.uk](mailto:recyclingiseasy@camden.gov.uk). You won't have had that letter if you live in a property considered too small to be suitable or containing six or more dwellings. Other arrangements, such as roadside communal bins, will be made for larger properties, and BRA will monitor these.

## All sorts of arts at St Peter's

Belsize Park's parish church of St Peter's is well known for hosting musical events, but this summer it is pulling out all the stops, with 'OPENING - a Celebration of the Arts'. Beginning on 22 June with a summer fair, including a Punch and Judy show, the Arts Week will close on 30 June with concert by the Belsize Community Choir and the Belsize Square Synagogue Choir. In between, there will be jazz, poetry, recitals, an art exhibition, drama, story-telling for children, two evenings with celebrated authors and a concert by

Belsize Baroque. The programme will also include workshops for people who want to try singing, dancing, drawing, knitting or working with clay. The Arts Week will include two

Sunday Eucharists with guest preachers: Canon Vernon White, the Canon Theologian at Westminster Abbey, and James Roose-Evans, writer, theatre director and Anglican priest (profiled in the May 2012 Newsletter). It will support three charities: Jessie's Fund, St Christopher's Fellowship and the Friends of Luwero in Uganda, as well as St Peter's Garden Restoration Project.

Find more details on the church website, [www.spbp.org.uk](http://www.spbp.org.uk). Churchwarden Ken Robbie can also answer general queries on 7431 1202.

### RUBBISH RULES

\*Wheelie bins will be for all dry recycling, including everything currently placed in the blue bags and green bins.

\*Food caddies will stay, as food needs separate recycling.

\*Non-recyclable rubbish must not be placed in the wheelie bins and will be collected in the usual way.

Find out more at [www.camden.gov.uk/recyclingchanges](http://www.camden.gov.uk/recyclingchanges)



## You are invited to the BELSIZE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION Summer Garden Party

on Sunday 30 June  
from 3pm to 5.30pm



at 14 Antrim Grove,  
NW3 4XR

courtesy of Elaine and Peter  
Hallgarten

**BRA MEMBERS ONLY**

Non-members are welcome  
to join at the gate



# Need to know

## Dates for your diary

### **Belsize Reminiscence Sessions**

**+Wednesday 15 May and Wednesday 19**

**June** 1pm to 3pm

Belsize Community Library, Antrim Road, NW3 4XN. See page 4 for more information.

### **Hidden Garden Art Show**

**+18 May to 9 June, Saturdays and Sundays**

(weekdays by appointment)

17 Belsize Lane, NW3 5AD.

Details [www.maureenmichaelson.com](http://www.maureenmichaelson.com)

or 7435 0510

### **Belsize French Club**

**+Wednesday 22 May and Wednesday 26**

**June**, 7.15pm to 8.30pm

Belsize Community Library (see above)

£5 at the door.

Details 7722 2965, [belfrclub@gmail.com](mailto:belfrclub@gmail.com)

### **Talk: Lifelines with Gillian Slovo**

**+Thursday 20 June**, 7pm for 7.30pm

Burgh House, New End Square, NW3 1LT.

### **St Peter's Arts Week**

**+Sunday 22 to Sunday 30 June**

See page 7 for details.

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

### **\*\*\* BRA Summer Garden Party \*\*\***

**+Sunday 30 June**, 3pm to 5.30pm

14 Antrim Grove, NW3 4XR. See page 7

## BRA COMMITTEE

**Averil Nottage** (*Chairwoman*)

2 Palm Court, 11-13 Fellows Road  
NW3 3LT

tel: 7483 4521

email: [averilnottage@btinternet.com](mailto:averilnottage@btinternet.com)

**Aileen Barry** (*Membership Secretary*)

8A Lancaster Drive  
NW3 4HA

tel: 7794 6604

email: [aileen.barry@dlapiper.com](mailto:aileen.barry@dlapiper.com)

**Anne Stevens** (*Secretary*)

Flat 1, 20 Netherhall Gardens  
NW3 5TH

tel: 7794 0874

email: [info@belsize.org.uk](mailto:info@belsize.org.uk)

**Deborah Buzan**

**Gordon Curtis**

**Judith Farbey**

**Judith Gubbay** (*Newsletter Editor*)

**Pat Holden**

**Consuelo Phelan**

**Ruth Sands**

**Neil Harris** (*Treasurer*)

**Prabhat Vaze**

## BRA WEBSITE

[www.belsize.org.uk](http://www.belsize.org.uk)

## How to contact the editor

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

The Editor, BRA Newsletter  
20A Crossfield Road, NW3 4NT  
email: [editorbra@gmail.com](mailto:editorbra@gmail.com).

We welcome contributions and event listings.  
**\*Deadline for the August issue: Friday 26 July\***