WERA newsletter

Warner Estate Residents Association June 2013

Celebrate the 150th anniversary of Alexandra Park

Alexandra Park was originally part of Tottenham Wood in the old parish of Tottenham. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries Tottenham Wood Farm was owned by the Rhodes family (Cecil Rhodes was a member of this family). Following the success of the Great Exhibition in 1851 and the re-erection of the palace at Crystal Palace, various proposals were made for a 'People's Palace' in north London. In 1862 the North London Park & Land Co. Ltd. acquired the farmland for conversion to a park and to build the palace. The park, named after Alexandra, Princess of Wales, opened in 1863 (the palace came ten years later).

In 1882 it was described as follows: 'The Park is laid out in ornamental walks and garden beds; cricket, archery, and croquet grounds; a racecourse, with a grandstand; trotting rings, gymnasiums, pleasant walks, running grounds, lakes, undulating drives, and numerous plantations. In various parts of the grounds are several novel buildings – a Japanese village complete, as in the Vienna Exhibition of 1873; a Norwegian house of varnished timber; a circus for horse riding; a large swimming-bath; a lake for boating; a rustic water-village raised on piles; etc. In addition, the visitor may find his way to the grove in the rear of the Japanese village, where a military band performs during the summer.'



The famous racecourse with the grandstand

One of the most popular attractions was the racecourse, which opened in 1868 and didn't close until September 1970. The track, nicknamed the 'frying pan', had two loops coming off the home straight. There are still remnants of evidence that a racecourse existed. On the ground, some of the rails are still in place, just as they were when racehorses thundered around the bends. Further evidence of the track layout can be found on Google Maps.

There is to be a celebration of the Park's 150th anniversary on Sunday 21st July. See www.alexandrapalace.com/park for details.

WERA MEMBERSHIP

The WERA subscription is £3 per household per year. We hope you will be happy to pay your 2013/14 subscription. Please give your subscription to your road representative (see insert).

WERA

Since 1996, **WERA** has represented the residents of nine roads at the bottom of Muswell Hill: Redston Road, Danvers Road, Warner Road, Park Avenue North, Priory Avenue, Linzee Road, Clovelly Road, Baden Road and Priory Road (north side).

WERA acts on behalf of residents and monitors local issues which affect the area, including those concerning Alexandra Palace and Park, road safety, and planning development proposals. WERA is affiliated to the Haringey Federation of Residents Associations and Sustainable Haringey.

WERA contact
Secretary Joyce Rosser on 020 8347 7684 or jrosser@lineone.net

WERA website
www.wera-n8.co.uk

Local activities 2012/13

Tottenham High Road heritage

As well as being WERA secretary, Joyce Rosser is secretary of the Tottenham Conservation Area Advisory Committee, so wearing that hat she gave a presentation about Tottenham High Road to a WERA meeting in February. She explained that the high road had been an important route into and out of the City of London since Roman times. In the Middle Ages, Tottenham was owned by various aristocratic families – hence Bruce Castle, from the Scottish royal family, and Northumberland Park, from the Percy family (hence Tottenham Hotspur). From the seventeenth to the nineteenth century, rich merchants built grand houses on the high road and some of these remain. North Tottenham was the second conservation area to be designated by Haringey Council (after Highgate) and, of the first 24 listed buildings in the borough, 15 were in Tottenham (nine were in Highgate and one – the church tower – in Hornsey). Joyce explained the problems in finding uses and funding restoration for Tottenham's many heritage buildings. She brought the analysis up to date by describing the Spurs redevelopment plans, the dismantling of the 1960s gyratory traffic system and the rebuilding after the 2011 riots.



Grade II* listed Dial House was built in 1691 for a City soap manufacturer called Moses Trulock. The building remained in the same family's ownership until the 1830s. It is now social housing. The Spurs stadium can be seen on the right of the photo.

New paving

Residents were pleased to see new paving replacing the ugly tarmac in front of the Park Road and Priory Road parade of shops.



Traffic and parking

Last summer WERA representatives were present at a well-attended meeting organised by the council to discuss the impact of extensions to the Crouch End Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ). Residents from the Hillfield Avenue/Harold Road area had been badly affected by displacement so they wanted a CPZ for their roads. In the autumn the council organised a consultation on a new 'South Hornsey CPZ'. Residents in surrounding areas (including WERA) received an 'information letter' about the proposal. This led to a lot of discussion, some quite heated, on the WERA Yahoo email group.

Because a majority of respondents in the proposed area wanted a CPZ the new CPZ started in January. Since then there have been complaints about more parking problems due to displacement, especially in Linzee Road. Jason Beazley, WERA road representative, has been keeping a record of residents' views. This problem is unlikely to go away.

For many years local residents have complained about the difficulty of turning out of Danvers Road and Warner Road into Priory Road. Jim Jenks, as one of our local councillors, has taken this up with council traffic officers, and some works to improve visibility are being discussed.

The council is currently consulting about a number of traffic improvement measures as part of the 'Hornsey Community Streets' project but has not so far produced any proposals to deal with traffic speeds of eastbound vehicles coming down Muswell Hill into Priory Road.

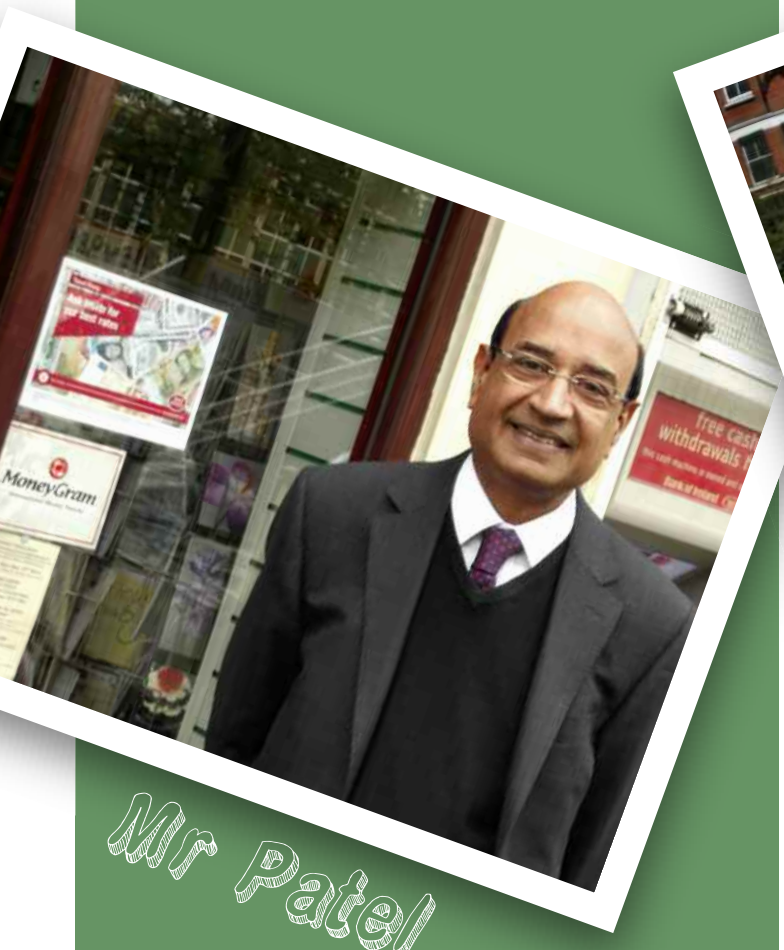
These are (some of) the people in your neighbourhood

As they used to say in *Sesame Street*, it is the 'people in your neighbourhood' who play a crucial role in building a local community. We have picked out some of these people – there are many more.

When we mentioned the idea of this special supplement to residents, many of them made other suggestions of people to include.

Hopefully we will feature these people and others in future WERA newsletters or on the WERA website.

Our thanks to everyone we've featured, for their work and their contribution to our community.



Mr Patel

Mr Patel, also known as Pat, has run the post office in Hornsey High Street for 15 years. When we asked a few locals about Pat, we got many positive responses, including: 'Mr Patel does a brilliant job, especially with needier customers'; 'A little dry sometimes, but great. Hornsey High Street can be a thankless place'; and 'A great neighbourhood asset'.



Larry King

Larry has been working in our patch for two years and he is now well known, with people queuing up to have a chat with him. He keeps the shopping area and Priory Road clean and regularly reports problems. He has worked with WERA in trying to deal with rubbish dumped in the Priory Common shrubberies.

Born and bred in Tottenham, Larry is a lifelong supporter of Spurs. He has a particular interest in war memorials in the borough – both the well-known ones erected by councils and the smaller ones commemorating individuals, to be found in some buildings. He is developing a photographic collection of these.



Umberto Sarri

Umberto, originally from Trieste, lives locally and has been our local watch-repairer 'on mechanical watches' for 25 years. He also sells clocks and watches.

Umberto's is the smallest shop in the parade, and there were two watchmakers in the same shop before him.

'I am happy to do this work,' he says. 'I would like to continue.' But, he adds, 'It's tougher now. The parade is not what it used to be,' having lost some very useful shops over the years. 'It's not the same atmosphere.'

Everyone seems to know Annie and Tracey. Annie, from Dundee, lives locally and enjoys hillwalking and walking her dog. She worked at Londis for 20 years and has been working at Vinay Mehta's Coral Pharmacy in Park Road for the past year.

Tracey, from 'Stoke Newington/Tottenham', also enjoys hillwalking, as well as Zumba and camping. She's been at Vinay's for 13 years. 'I love it,' she says, and the 'friendly, old-fashioned' feel of the area, which is 'nice and green.'

Annie Conway & Tracey Brooks



The Fujiis have been running Fuji Foods in Priory Road since December 2004. Fukuko says, 'We want to say thank you very much for your custom,' which she and Yoshikazu say is mostly local and mostly comes by word of mouth.

Fukuko & Yoshikazu Fujii





Neil Gunnery



Charles Kwarteng

Neil lives in Church Lane with his wife Kiryet and their boys Finan and Leto (a name from *Dune* – Neil is a great science fiction fan). Neil is currently training to be a history teacher. He says he feels lucky that WERA is where he delivers post.

Charles has been delivering post to 'the same patch' (as he puts it) – both sides of Priory Road and in several roads to the south – for 16 years. He is Ghanaian and has two daughters, Ophelia and Lucy, and grandchildren. He lives in White Hart Lane.

He's been to a few local street parties, and he spoke to us about the time he had a toothache while he was doing his rounds. A retired dentist took him into his Priory Road home and wrote out a prescription that solved Charles' problem.

'I'm so chuffed with the people in the area,' he says. 'People are so nice. They're special.'

Paula is the head of the Stonecroft Children's Centre at the corner of Danvers and Priory roads. She has been at the centre for 25 years and lives in Enfield.

Paula said, 'We're very proud to work in such an accomplished nursery that's so well known throughout the area, and in particular for the work we do with children with special educational needs.'

She explained that the centre is 'not just the nursery', and functions as a 'one-stop shop for families', offering a multi-agency approach working with Haringey's social workers, psychologists, health visitors and midwives, in areas ranging from child development to breastfeeding support.



Paula Knight

The Reuse & Recycling Centre



Djamel, Ruth and McCooda with a young local resident

Anyone visiting the Reuse and Recycling Centre in Hornsey High Street cannot fail to be impressed with the friendly and helpful staff. Ruth originally comes from Scotland, McCooda from Jamaica and Djamel from Algeria, but together with Chris, the fourth member of the team, they are all Londoners now and Ruth has her first grandchild also living in Haringey.

All four have been working together for nearly ten years, the last seven at the RRC. This is doubly surprising because they have had five different employers in that time (North London Waste Company now runs the site) and because two of them support Spurs and two Arsenal. They didn't give us their surnames because they are more than happy for people to use their first names.



Priory Common and Orchard

Once again we received free daffodil bulbs from the council, which were planted on the common in November. A group of residents continues to work on the 'edible landscapes' orchard at the bottom of Redston Road. We hope that this year there will be lots of fruit and vegetables for people to sample.



Plants starting to grow on the orchard

Local activities 2012/13

Alexandra Palace

Last July 80 people attended the WERA Annual General Meeting to hear Duncan Wilson, the new Alexandra Palace and Park (APP) Chief Executive, talk about the regeneration plans. His ideas were warmly welcomed. We are glad to see that the first bid for Heritage Lottery funding, which WERA and many other local groups supported, has been successful. APP has been awarded £844,800 in development funding, which will enable it to draw up detailed multimillion-pound plans including bringing the dilapidated Victorian theatre back into use and turning the former BBC television studios into a historical and educational visitor experience.

There were concerns about last summer's Red Bull BMX event (changes have since been made to how events are approved) but we welcomed other events, especially the Holland Heineken House and the Olympics Torch reception. WERA representatives continue to sit on the APP Consultative and Advisory Committees, which now meet jointly.

Crime and policing

WERA representatives attend Safer Neighbourhood Team ward panel meetings and Neighbourhood Watch meetings. This enables us to put forward our concerns and hear about local developments.

WERA as a community

WERA public meetings, the two book groups, and work on Priory Common help to bring local residents closer together. So too does the WERA Yahoo email group, which now has over 200 members and is a lively forum for exchanging information about recommended tradespeople, unwanted goods and local events and concerns. To join the Yahoo email group, email Dick Hudson on dick@ling.ucl.ac.uk.

The archive of past messages is at www.groups.yahoo.com/group/wera-n8/.

In addition to WERA events, there are several street parties organised in our patch. Thanks to everyone involved for making our community such a great place to live.

ADVANCE NOTICE

WERA
Annual General Meeting
8PM MONDAY 15TH JULY
MORAVIAN CHURCH HALL, PRIORY ROAD N8

Dr Peter Christian, local GP and a Governing Body member of the Haringey Clinical Commissioning Group, will speak on 'Haringey Clinical Commissioning Group: who we are and how we will work'

Followed by AGM business

WERA COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Chair
David Liebeck
19 Danvers Road
020 8348 0457

Secretary
Joyce Rosser
46 Redston Road
020 8347 7684

Alexandra Palace and Park Statutory Advisory Committee
David Liebeck

Alexandra Palace and Park Consultative Committee
Dick Hudson

Alexandra Palace and Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee
Antonia Denford

Website and Yahoo group manager
Dick Hudson
dick@ling.ucl.ac.uk

ROAD REPRESENTATIVES

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54 Park Avenue North
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Priory Avenue
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