# WERA newsletter

Warner Estate Residents Association June 2019

## WERA MEMBERSHIP

The WERA subscription is £3 per household per year. We hope you will be happy to pay your 2019/20 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 to Sustainable Haringey.

**WERA contact**
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**WERA website**
www.wera-n8.co.uk

# Our green spaces

WERA is fortunate in having Alexandra Park and Priory Park so close. We also have our own Priory Common, which has wonderful trees and shrubs and each year we plant more daffodils. Then there is Priory Common Orchard (www.sites.google.com/view/pcorchard/home) at the bottom of Redston Road, which is managed as an 'edible landscape' by Gemma Harris and a team of volunteers. People come from miles around (we've had visitors from Germany and Sweden) to see this project and of course it is well frequented by young children and their parents (and, slightly less welcome, by late night drinkers – usually well behaved).

We had an unexpected visitor last summer when we salvaged a glass-fibre model ram from the Western Road Recycling Centre. Given the name 'Ramses' he delighted everyone. Sadly, he was stolen in the autumn so all that is left to remind us of his stay is a poem by Jeff Probst.

### Ramses

*In this once cattle pound,*
*far from home,*
*Recycled Ramses once rambled*
*and roamed;*
*and for three summer months –*
*though shorn of a horn –*
*with two eyes bright*
*he kept watch through the night,*
*awaiting dawn*
*and the children's delight.*

by Jeff Probst

Other local green spaces are our own front and back gardens. Although some front gardens have been replaced by car parking spaces, there are still many which provide a wonderful display of plants and shrubs in the spring and summer. And some residents have planted flowers around the tree pits outside their houses, which is a lovely idea.



# Local news and activities 2018/19





## Street trees

WERA roads have lots of lovely trees. Many are plane trees planted about a hundred years ago, and some are smaller types of trees planted more recently. The plane trees are pollarded every three years.

Obviously problems sometimes occur with individual trees. About ten years ago 60 residents attended a WERA meeting at which Alex Fraser and Clare Pappalardo, two of the council tree officers (both still in post), talked about the increasing number of subsidence claims from insurance companies. They said that they will only cut down a tree if it is proved it is causing the problem. When they have funding they can sometimes fund smaller replacement trees.

WERA is currently in discussion with Alex and Clare about whether we can raise some funding for new trees to replace some of those lost and what are the best types of trees to plant.

# Local news and activities 2018/19

## 'The bauble tree'

In recent years some of us have noticed the lovely Christmas decorations on a tree in Alexandra Park (south of the Lower Road and near the pathway that runs up from the North View Road park entrance). It was only this Christmas that we discovered that some WERA residents help to decorate the tree. The baubles look lovely glittering in the sunshine. Volunteers working on Rectory Gardens subsequently copied this idea and put up Christmas baubles on their pergola and some of the small trees. This cost almost nothing but resulted in a very favourable response from many passers-by.



## OUR MP AND LOCAL COUNCILLORS

**Catherine West MP**
catherine.west.mp@parliament.uk

**Hornsey ward councillors**
Dana Carlin, Adam Jogee and Elin Weston

**Muswell Hill ward councillors**
Pippa Connor, Scott Emery and Julia Ogiehor

Write to councillors at:
River Park House, 225 High Road, N22 8HQ or email using firstname.lastname@haringey.gov.uk

**Haringey Council**
www.haringey.gov.uk 020 8489 0000

To report problems, such as dumped rubbish and graffiti, email frontline@haringey.gov.uk

**Metropolitan Police**
If a crime is currently taking place and you are in immediate danger, dial 999. If you wish to contact the Metropolitan Police Service and it is not an emergency, call the non-emergency number, 101.

**Our local Safer Neighbourhood Teams**
Muswellhill.snt@met.police.uk
Hornsey.snt@met.police.uk
www.met.police.uk has lots of information about crime trends.

## Crime and safety




As elsewhere across the country, there has been increased concern in Haringey about incidents of crime, some quite violent. One evening before Christmas a WERA resident was car-jacked outside her house as she was getting things out of her car. Two men in balaclavas threatened to shoot her if she didn't hand over her car keys. They then stole the car with her handbag inside. Another resident had her bag snatched whilst walking along a road in Crouch End. And of course people have been stabbed (and even killed) in other parts of Haringey. All this makes people feel very insecure.

WERA is a Neighbourhood Watch group and attends meetings of Haringey Neighbourhood Watch. We also have a representative on the Muswell Hill Police Ward Panel. Because of concern over rising crime and how to guard against it, this will be the main item on the agenda of our AGM on Thursday 18th July. Full details of this meeting will be distributed to all households nearer the date.

# Local news and activities 2018/19

## Local shops and businesses

There are 34 shops and local businesses at the bottom of Muswell Hill, either in Priory Road or Park Road, as well as seven at the bottom of Nightingale Lane. They provide a wonderful service and are obviously a place to bump into your neighbour and have a chat.

It has been sad to see some of them closing over the past year, including Rose & Mary, The Art Experience and the very successful Nati's. Some of the shops in the Palace Parade, which is still owned by the Warner family, have been faced with large rent rises. WERA would like to have more contact with these shops and businesses to see what we can do to support them (we count them all as honorary WERA members).

## Traffic

The Hornsey North Controlled Parking Zone came into force in January 2019 following a consultation to get local residents' views (most WERA roads voted against a CPZ). As expected, there is now greater pressure on parking spaces, especially in Linzee Road, Baden Road, Clovelly Road and Priory Avenue.

Large crowds come to Alexandra Palace on New Year's Eve to see the fireworks on the Thames. This results in our streets getting clogged with traffic, which would be a problem if emergency vehicles need to get access. WERA representatives have raised this at the Alexandra Park and Palace Advisory/Consultative Committee meeting and the Palace has agreed to look into it.

Alexandra Palace is now considering charging for parking in their car parks, which again would have an impact on our roads. There would be a full consultation with local residents about any proposed plans.

Haringey Council have installed 38 new electric-vehicle charging points (EVCPs) in different parts of the borough, including three on Priory Road (at the junction with Redston Road).



## Alexandra Palace Theatre

Many of us have been to see some of the first productions at the restored theatre. Alexandra Palace Theatre had been on the 'Theatres at Risk' list since the Register was created. Following the completion of the restoration project, it has now been removed. It is one of only two theatres in the country removed from the list this year because they were returning to live performance use (others were removed due to the fact that efforts to save them had failed).

## WERA as a community

WERA activities help to bring local residents closer together. So too does the WERA Yahoo email group, which has over 350 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 at r.hudson@ucl.ac.uk The archive of past messages can be accessed on http://tinyurl.com/q4badyd. Our thanks to Dick for all the work he does in managing the Yahoo Group and our website.


### Newsletter

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