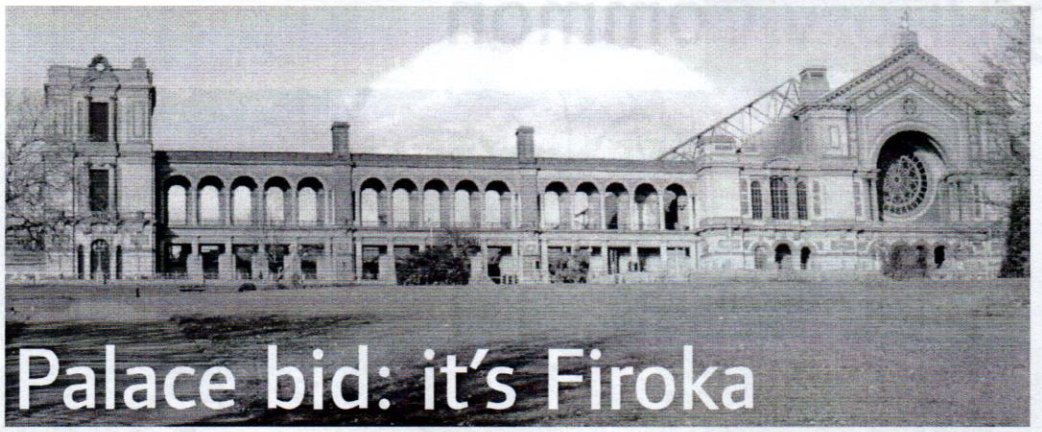
RESIDE WERA newsletter

Warner Estate Residents Association **June 2006**



Palace bid: it's Firoka

After all the expectations of a 'beauty' contest to select the preferred bidder to take a 125-year lease of Alexandra Palace from the Council, it was quite a damp squib of a final round.

One of the 'finalists', the Islington Design Centre, simply pulled out. On the other hand, the proposal from the Earls Court & Olympia Group consisted of a few paragraphs of generalities, and disclosed a lack of understanding of the scope of the brief.

So that left the Board of Trustees with a choice of just one remaining contender, the Firoka Group, owned by Firoz Kassam, one of Britain's wealthiest individuals but with a somewhat chequered past in relation to his purchase of Oxford United Football Club and ground.

However, Firoka's plan itself is an ambitious one, looking forward to a restored and repaired exterior of the Palace, housing a five-star hotel built round the Palm Court area, the retention of the exhibition hall (including the famous organ), with the third section on the north-eastern side containing leisure and communal areas.

One imaginative proposal is to raise the level of the ice rink by a few floors, and increase its size, so as to afford spectacular views over the park and to the east.

The anticipated spend just to repair the outside of the building is in excess of £35 million and the work will take 4–5 years to complete. All parties are anxious to get the show on the road, so watch this – or rather that – space, as the works are hopefully imminent.

In the meantime, there is a rush on to complete the work on the park funded by the Heritage Lottery people. New paths and fencing, thinning of trees, clearance of some overgrown areas, and lots of new trees for the Redston playing fields are the visible signs of the ongoing works which will be completed within the next year. For more information about Alexandra Park developments see Park Manager Matt Baker's recent progress report (available from the WERA website below).

WERA will continue to have representation on the Statutory Advisory Committee and the Consultative Committee, which will continue to function after the grant of the lease to Firoka.

Recent developments have included a meeting to relaunch an Alexandra Palace Conservation Area Advisory Committee and a meeting to set up a new body called Friends of Alexandra Park.

AN IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

This year's **WERA Annual General Meeting** will be held at 8pm on Thursday 6th July (not a World Cup fixture date!) at the Moravian Church Hall, Priory Road. Zoe Robertson, Haringey Council Recycling Officer, will talk about local recycling services and answer your questions. A police officer from the local Safer Neighbourhood Team will also be present.

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, including those concerning Alexandra Palace and Park, road safety and planning developments which affect the area and our properties.

WERA membership
170 households

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

WERA website
www.wera-n8.co.uk

The **WERA** annual membership subscription is £2 per household. Please give your subscription to your road representative (see page 4).

WERA activities 2005/06

Improving Priory Common

Priory Common is the strip of open land that runs along the north side of Priory Road from just west of Redston Road to just east of Park Avenue North. Last summer WERA got together a group of local residents to meet on the Common with Tony Healey, West Haringey Parks Manager. We agreed to set up a WERA working group called the 'Friends of Priory Common' to liaise with the Council to get improvements made.



We applied for a Council 'Making a difference' grant to start the repairs needed on the Edwardian wall that runs the length of the Common. We then discovered that this would cost £38,000 so we will need to seek alternative sources of funding. Instead we got funding for a paved pathway across the Common to the Moravian Church and the Fountain Day Nursery. There is a large gap in the wall here and over the years people had walked across the Common causing damage to the shrubs and grass.

On two days in November about twenty people (including several children) turned up to plant nearly a thousand daffodils and several hundred crocuses (donated by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers). Photos of this bulb planting event appeared in all the local press and in 'Haringey People'. When spring came the new flowers greatly enhanced the appearance of the Common. We plan to plant more bulbs this autumn.

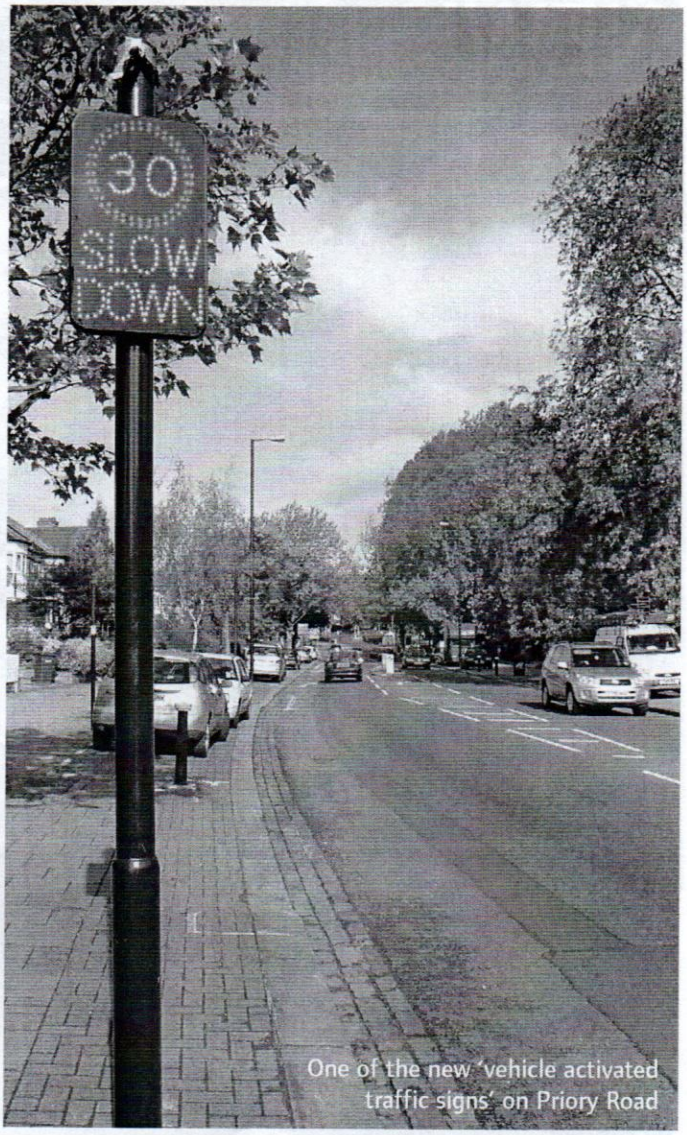
There are eight benches on the Common, mostly quite old and some broken. The Council has replaced three of them (and transferred a memorial plaque from an old bench). WERA has launched an appeal to purchase a memorial bench for Paul Eddington, the much loved TV and stage actor, who lived in Park Avenue North for many years. It is hoped that this will be installed over the summer with an official 'opening' in September.

It is not too late to make a contribution to the Paul Eddington memorial bench. Please give cheques (made out to WERA) to your road representative or bring them to the WERA Annual General Meeting.

The Friends group has met with Dr Nick Michael, Haringey's new Nature Conservation Officer, to discuss a possible wildflower garden in the westernmost corner of the Common.

We have got rid of the unsightly, often overflowing, red bin and have put up notices asking dog owners to put their waste into the general litter bins which are emptied more frequently. Both dog waste and litter are incinerated so there is no need to keep them separate.

Slowing down Priory Road traffic



One of the new 'vehicle activated traffic signs' on Priory Road

There is a 30mph speed limit in Priory Road but the design of the road encourages drivers to exceed this. Following a number of accidents in the road WERA campaigned for a pedestrian crossing at the junction of Danvers Road and Priory Road. We didn't get this although the Council did paint 30mph signs on the road.

So last October WERA hired a speed gun in order to carry out a survey of traffic speeds in Priory Road. Working in pairs at different times of the day and evening over the course of one week WERA members made a note of vehicle speeds.

The results showed that 47% of motorists were driving too fast. Some vehicles were recorded at speeds of up to 50 or 60 mph. These figures are probably an underestimate because traffic conditions at busy times meant that vehicles were unable to exceed the limit, and we also noted that drivers slowed down when they saw us with the speed gun.

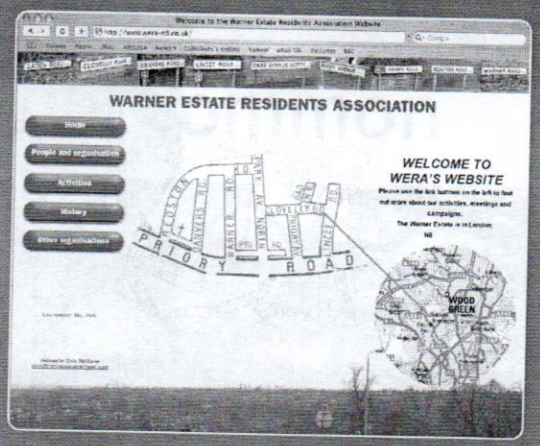
The campaign was backed by our local MP and councillors. We sent a report of the survey results to the Council and following this the London Safety Camera Partnership (a body which includes the Metropolitan Police, the Greater London Authority and local councils) organised its own speed check on Priory Road in December. In just three and a half hours the police caught 79 speeding drivers.

Haringey Council then decided to install four 'vehicle activated traffic signs' (VATS) on the road. These light up with a sign saying '30mph Slow Down' when approaching vehicles are driving at more than the speed limit. VATS do not provide evidence to prosecute individual motorists but they do provide data on traffic speeds over different periods of time. Research has shown that such signs cut traffic speeds by 10% with a 50% reduction in casualties. Since they have been installed it is clear that most cars do tend to slow down on seeing them although there is still the minority of recalcitrant drivers who seem to ignore any limits.

NEW!

WERA now has a website thanks to Chris Matthews, a member from Park Avenue North.

Come to **www.wera-n8.co.uk** for information about the past, present and future of our estate.



2005 AGM: SPOTLIGHT ON HORNSEY HIGH STREET

In July 2005 we held our Annual General Meeting with about 50 members present. Catherine Perry, West Haringey Heritage Officer, gave a fascinating talk on 'Hornsey High Street: Past, Present and Future'. Hornsey is one of the most historic parts of Haringey with records going back to the thirteenth century. Until the mid-nineteenth century it remained a small rural village with the New River and Moselle River winding through it. Catherine described how people would go fishing outside the Three Compasses and other local pubs.

After many decades of decline Hornsey High Street is now anticipating a brighter future. The plans and photos of the proposed regeneration were on display at our AGM. WERA has a representative on the Hornsey High Street Enhancement Strategy Group.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

All wards in Haringey now have a Metropolitan Police Safer Neighbourhood Team. Most of WERA is in Muswell Hill ward where the Team consists of one sergeant, two police constables and two police community support officers. PC Paul Lancaster approached WERA with a view to us becoming a Neighbourhood Watch area. We now receive the Neighbourhood Watch newsletter which describes any crimes committed in our area and provides basic crime prevention advice.

HORNSEY RECYCLING CENTRE NOW FULLY OPEN

The new recycling centre in Hornsey High Street is now open seven days a week. It can be accessed from the High Street (next to the Magic Flute Banqueting Suite), takes most things (unfortunately not empty paint tins) and has very helpful staff.

TREES (AGAIN!)

Over the years WERA has had various discussions with Clare Carter and Alex Fraser, the Council arboriculturists (tree officers), about the trees in our roads. The main concerns have been trees that might be causing house subsidence, replacing missing trees and the type of replacement trees.

In January we met with Clare and Alex to discuss which replacement trees to plant in Warner Road. Unfortunately some species are now no longer suitable because of the dryer climate and increasing risk of subsidence. We toured local streets seeing the new trees that have recently been planted. A group of Warner Road residents will be making a decision over the summer about what trees should be planted in Warner Road.

Regrettably it was necessary for the enormous poplar tree at the bottom of Redston Road to be cut down. It was leaning over so much it was blocking the pavement and damaging both the pavement and the road. It was also diseased. We have been promised some replacement trees.

FIREWORKS NIGHT

Each November WERA road representatives distribute fireworks-night road entry permits to all local houses. These are sometimes called 'parking permits' but of course they merely enable local residents to pass the police barriers at the ends of the roads. Last year WERA asked that the road barriers be kept in place until the fireworks display ended, to avoid the situation that occurred in 2004 when the barriers were removed just before the start of the display and latecomers' cars were able to enter our roads, resulting in a gridlock.

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 and Harry Aspden

Alexandra Palace and Park Consultative Committee
Dick Hudson

ROAD REPRESENTATIVES

Clovelly Road and Baden Road
Rosie and John Schild
9 Clovelly Road
020 8340 6512

Danvers Road
Jeff Probst
Upper Flat
2 Danvers Road
020 8341 9517

Linzee Road
Lynn Stevens
48 Linzee Road
020 8341 7156

Park Avenue North
Jack Noutch
54 Park Avenue North
020 8340 6377

Priory Avenue
Colin Brewster
24 Priory Avenue
020 8348 4195

Priory Road (north)
David Shelbourn
56 Priory Road
020 8348 2523

Redston Road
Ursula Maestranzi
88 Redston Road
020 8340 2668

Warner Road
Robyn and Adrian Thomas
30 Warner Road
020 8348 4897

GOODBYE AND THANKS

WERA would like to say goodbye and thanks to Rosie and John Schild, Clovelly and Baden Road representatives, who are moving to Scotland. We will be looking for a new representative for these roads.