WERA newsletter

Warner Estate Residents Association October 2022



Photo by Tim Phillipson, originally published on Harringay Online

WERA

Since 1996, **WERA** has represented the residents of nine roads: Redston Road, Danvers Road, Warner Road, Park Avenue North, Priory Avenue, Linzee Road, Clovelly Road, Baden Road and Priory Road (north side). Some former residents and people living in nearby roads are also involved.

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 developments.

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WERA website
www.wera-n8.co.uk

Back to Normal?

After the Covid lockdowns of the past two years, everything might have been expected to settle down in 2022, but that hasn't been the case.

In February it was the start of the war in Ukraine with all its humanitarian and economic consequences. Some local families have offered homes to Ukrainian refugees. Then in the summer we had a long drought and heatwaves with temperatures in the 30s. The impact on local parks and gardens was dramatic. And it seems that this is something that we may have to get used to.

Even more people than usual have been involved in vital community activities, such as helping with food banks or collecting litter. During lockdown it was important for people to be able to get out in our parks where they could meet people at a safe distance. More residents got dogs to keep them company and to meet up with other dog owners. Of course, the longest-running (!) gathering is the 'greyhound group' (including some whippets), which has been taking walks together in Alexandra Park for about eight years.

The front page of last year's WERA newsletter heralded our success in getting Haringey Council to refuse planning permission for a big development on Priory Common Orchard. But in December the developer appealed against this refusal to the government Planning Inspectorate. We still haven't heard the result but, if this appeal is successful, it will do enormous damage to the Orchard, possibly resulting in its complete destruction.

Local news and activities 2021/22







Street parties

This summer, local roads have held a number of street parties (again a wonderful sign after two years without such events). Redston Road had a very successful Jubilee Lunch on the 5th June. In spite of gloomy weather forecasts, it remained dry, and over 300 people attended. A wonderful three-course meal was served. One nice feature was a police car, with sirens blaring, turning up for the officers to join the party. They then let the children get into their vehicle.

The Warner Road Street Party was held on the 4th September and, once again, they were lucky with the weather (perhaps we shouldn't be surprised about this in such a dry summer). They succeeded in getting the parked cars moved from most of the road, and large numbers of residents turned up to eat, meet neighbours and enjoy the entertainments provided. Thanks to Rev. Michael Newman of the Moravian Church for loaning the tables and chairs for both these events.

Local shops and businesses

It could be said that we are spoilt for choice. In addition to shopping centres with major supermarkets a bus ride away in Hornsey High Street, Muswell Hill Broadway and Crouch End, we have valuable local shops almost on our doorstep. These have survived the lockdowns. Let's hope they survive the energy price rises.

Firstly, there is the little group of shops at the bottom of Nightingale Lane, which includes Erdem Supermarket and the very popular Priory Fish Bar.

Then there is Palace Parade (which runs along both Priory Road and Park Road), which has a range of long-established and newer shops and businesses. Kiss the Koala café, which opened in late 2020, is doing remarkably well. The new Co-op is a useful addition. Our two local pubs, the Victoria Stakes and The Priory, are thriving. And, of course, there is Coral Pharmacy. (A flyer delivered to all households inviting people to order their NHS medications online rather than going to their pharmacy got short shrift on the WERA email group.)

OUR MP AND LOCAL COUNCILLORS

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

Hornsey ward councillors
Dana Carlin, Adam Jogee and Elin Weston

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, go to **www.haringey.gov.uk/contact/my-account**

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 Team
Hornsey.snt@met.police.uk

www.met.police.uk has lots of information about crime trends.

WERA website and email list

Dick Hudson, a Park Avenue North resident and former WERA committee member, set up and managed the WERA website for many years. He also set up one of the most successful and popular features of WERA – the WERA email group. Our thanks to Dick for all his work over the years. We are very grateful that George Walker, another committee member, has now taken over responsibility for the website and email group.

The email group is a great way to connect with other WERA members. It is generally used to ask for and share advice about the local area, restaurants and tradespeople. It is also a great place to find new homes for unused items. To join the group, please email george@whoosh.co.uk and he can send you an invite.

As the group has grown, we have tried to keep the number of messages to a minimum to avoid clogging up inboxes. If you simply reply to a message from the group, the response will be forwarded to everyone. One thing that can really help is to make use of the 'reply to sender' functionality, using the link in the footer of the email when sending a message that isn't relevant to the whole group. (In some old email clients this isn't visible by default. If this is the case for you, please email George and he can help.)

There are also a few options for how messages are delivered. You can adjust your preferences by logging into the groups.io website where you can choose from a daily digest email or having all messages from the group delivered as emails. Another way to access the group is through the groups.io app. This is available if you search the app store on either android or iOS.

The WERA website has a list of recommended tradespeople. A big thank you to Richard Green, who set up the original list, and to Lindsay Fowler, who has recently updated and restructured this list. You can find a live version of the list as a Google sheet alongside information about how to search the message archive if you go to: **www.wera-n8.co.uk/archive**

Trees

We are very fortunate in having lots of street trees, mostly plane trees planted when our houses were built. These plane trees are pollarded every three years (a major undertaking). Some residents have been unhappy about branches sprouting at the bottom of these trees ('basal growth'). The council tree officers explained that this is not something that they have a budget for (although they agreed to deal with specific instances causing problems). Many locals thought that, where necessary, residents could cut back the branches themselves (preferably early in the summer before they get too big) and put them in their garden waste bins, and this is what some have been doing.

In addition, we have local examples of 'tree pit enhancement'. This is where there is a patch of earth around a tree enabling residents to create lovely mini gardens (although this year these have all suffered from the drought).





Priory Common Orchard

In spite of the summer drought and the development threat, Priory Common Orchard (**www.sites.google.com/view/pcorchard**) continues to be run by a group of volunteers meeting every week. The council Parks Department provides support by mowing the paths between the beds. We get regular deliveries of woodchip (without asking for it or knowing which tree surgeons provide it!) which we use and which we invite gardeners to take. People working on other community gardens across Haringey also come to collect this woodchip.

Hornsey North Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ)

In February 2021, there was a public consultation about parking controls. All roads from Cross Lane in the east to Redston Road in the west were included (except Rectory Gardens, which is already in a CPZ). The consultation led to a lot of heated discussion within WERA.

The council received over 1000 responses (a 23% response rate). 52.9% did not support the introduction of a full-time CPZ; 38.9% did support it; and 8.2% indicated support but only if a Permit Parking Area was introduced (a PPA restricts parking to permit holders during operational hours without the need for marked parking bays). Analysed on a road-by-road basis, this showed that 19 roads, all in the east of the area, had a majority supporting parking controls. There will be no CPZs in WERA roads.

It is not clear what impact these new CPZ roads (not yet introduced) will have. In addition, new car parking charges are being introduced in late autumn in Alexandra Palace and Park to cover their '£400,000 annual cost of keeping car parks open', and again it is not clear what effect this will have on our area.

WERA Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be at 7.30PM ON THURSDAY 20TH OCTOBER in the Moravian Church.

After seven years, Jim Jenks is stepping down as WERA Chair. There will be an election for all WERA committee members at the AGM. See insert with this newsletter.

Newsletter

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