

Queen's Park News

Queen's Park Area Residents' Association

January 2012

www.qpark.org.uk

LOOKING FOR NEW GARDENS!

Queen's Park Open Gardens & Studios
Sunday 17th June 2012

This ever popular and lovely bi-annual event will take place again this coming June. We are especially looking for new gardens, and any new artists to the area are also very welcome to contact us.

The gardens don't have to be exceptional, or to Chelsea Flower Show standards. We are just looking for people who love their outdoor space, however small or large, to share with us!

The gardens are open from noon to 5pm. The participants usually have a group tour of the gardens and studios the Saturday before, when they meet gardeners and artists who live in the area. The money raised goes to the 'greening' of our local area, such as the olive trees in the big terracotta pots by the Police Station and in Harvist Road.

We have a few more projects for which we want to raise money, including planters by Queen's Park Station itself. The event is organized by Andrea Szalanczi, Jacqui Roche and Robert Budwig. Do contact Robert by the end of February 2012 at rbudwig@aol.com or **07946 300 975** if you are interested in taking part.

We look forward to hearing from you!



NEW HOMES, CHEVENING ROAD

You may have noticed the disappearance of the building known as the Police Flats. These are being replaced by a new three-storey development designed by local firm Claridge Architects. The development consists of twelve flats, with a mix of one, two and three bedrooms – all designed for the private market. The ground floor flats will have gardens and there will be a communal garden at the rear of the site. Sustainable features reportedly include solar panels and a green roof, but no private car parking.



Artist's impression of new flats

Construction is well underway and completion is expected in autumn 2012.

PARK NEWS

The redevelopment of the older children's play area within the park has gathered pace recently with the submission of plans to Brent Council. Following on from the community consultation a number of years ago and the driving force of Caroline Robinson and Helen Durnford, the City of London, who manage the park, are now hoping to start Phase One imminently.

The City will be able to fund only part of the work. The park is looking to the local community to support fundraising schemes, grant applications and help raise a substantial amount of the £300,000 required. The project has been split into three phases. The first phase will cost £80,000. This has been partially raised with contributions from QPARA and a local resident with a matching sum from the City.

To promote this, QPARA Park Committee Members John Blandy, Ben Chase and

Alison Moulding joined Park Manager Richard Gentry over a weekend in November to display the plans and encourage the local community to lend their support. A large number of people signed up to be kept informed. An action committee from this group will now be formed to help drive the fundraising and coordinate volunteers.

If you are interested in receiving further information on the play area redevelopment or wish to offer support, please email Richard Gentry at richard.gentry@cityoflondon.gov.uk or Alison at alisonmeinel@hotmail.com



19th/20th MAY 2012

FUNDRAISING QUIZ NIGHT

7.30pm, Friday 30th March at Salusbury School

TICKETS £10 (£8 concs)

To include a glass of wine and nibbles.

On sale from 12th March from Queen's Park Books and 25th March at

the Farmers' Market. Teams of 6.

General knowledge quiz with a gentle literary bias.

GALA EVENING

Friday 18th May

TICKETS £10 (£8 concs)

The Book Festival Weekend, our 2nd, will start with a **GALA EVENING** at the **LEXI CINEMA**, to be hosted by a star of stage and screen, yet to be announced! The two-day festival itself will take place in Queen's Park. There will be plenty of free activities. Well known authors are to take part, many with local connections.

SPONSORSHIP

Individuals are invited to sponsor us for a minimum of £25 and will become a 'Festival Friend' which will earn them seat reservation privileges. Businesses are invited to sponsor us for a minimum of £50 and receive two free weekend tickets. Sponsorship will help keep this not-for-profit event affordable for everyone.

FESTIVAL TICKETS

Day Ticket £10 (£8 concs)

Weekend Ticket £15 (£12.50 concs)

QPARA

The Queen's Park Area Residents' Association is run by volunteers. At the last AGM, a new set of Officers took up their posts. A few words from our much appreciated Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Secretary:

RICHARD BRINDLEY, Chairman

I have very much enjoyed living and raising a family in the Queen's Park area for over thirty years and made many local friends through QPARA. I'm delighted to be your chairman and very much look forward to working with many more of my Queen's Park neighbours.

KEVIN BARRETT, Vice Chairman

I've lived in Queens Park for over fifty years and seen changes, both good and bad, over this time. It is my hope to influence to the good the direction Brent Council takes us and to avoid mistakes of the past. I've also had involvement with other local Residents' Associations on several issues such as Kilburn Square and the South Kilburn development, in the hope of improving the area we live in, mainly regarding planning and council services. I'm staying in Queen's Park. I love it!

ANDREA SZALANCZI, Treasurer

I've lived in Queen's Park since 1989 and have brought up my children here. I volunteered to be QPARA treasurer (quite a while ago!) because I thought that, as a chartered accountant, I'd be able to provide the Association with good financial information to help in planning the many community events and activities.

MARK NORBURY, Membership Secretary

A long-term resident of Queen's Park, I became active in the Residents' Association only three years ago. I'm a project manager, sometimes working from my home in Windermere Avenue, which I share with my wife and two children. Having enjoyed QPARA events like Queen's Park Day and Open Gardens, I decided somewhat belatedly it was time to do my bit. I've thoroughly enjoyed being involved and would like to encourage others, especially younger people, to join in.

EMMA TAIT, Secretary

I have lived in Montrose Avenue since 1980 and been a member of QPARA from the time I was aware of its existence. Although my attendance at meetings has been erratic and practical contribution minimal, when I was asked if I would stand as secretary, I felt it was time to make a greater effort and commitment. Despite the challenges of the role, the rewards include helping to shape the way we operate, meeting more people in the area and getting exercise as I deliver the minutes and agendas to the street reps.

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF ... THE WILDLIFE NOTICEBOARD

In Kingswood Avenue, by the Park entrance opposite Montrose Avenue, is QPARA's Wildlife Noticeboard - a permanent display about wildlife in the Queen's Park area and also changing presentations on various topics and local activities.

The display about bats and the life cycle of one of our commoner species, the Pipistrelle, advertised a well-attended autumn evening bat walk in the Park.



There were topics on trees, on wintering birds and the RSPB Big Garden and Big School Birdwatches. Highlighted was the flock of redwings that visit annually; over 100 of these Scandinavian members of the thrush family, with white eye-stripes and red under-wings, had been seen in late January.

In early spring we featured a pond life display, including a depiction of the lifecycle of frogs and toads. May/June saw a general display about British birds, accompanied by a photo of a nest found locally and an advert for our annual Birdwalk, which attracted some new participants - though the walk did not add to the tally of species seen in previous years.

Through the summer we covered ladybirds in the UK and park visitors were invited to take part in the national bug counting scheme. In the autumn there were some delightful illustrations of the support that brambles give to other wildlife. The current winter display is shared between the lifecycle of the fox, at this mating season being heard as much as seen, and wintering migrant birds.

Keeping noticeboards refreshed and up to date is always a challenge and subject to human frailty, but so far we feel that we have broadly managed to achieve our objectives, though more feedback and more contributions, especially from the younger generation would be welcome. In addition to my own displays, contributions have been gratefully received from Liz Till and Anne Sharp.

Special thanks are due to Judith Rose who created two-thirds of all displays.

Robin Sharp

WINTER GATHERING in Queen's Park

One cold afternoon, mid December, saw a gathering of folk who had come to enjoy Christmastime in the park. There was a lovely three-piece jazz band playing old favourites; mulled wine was served; we had the beautiful park's Christmas tree and a very convincing Santa - all to entertain the crowd mainly comprised of families with young children. The park had made special efforts - they stayed open after dark, lighting the paths with strings of lights, helping to create a festive and very enjoyable event. Organised by Caren Owen of South Kilburn Studios.

KEEPING SAFE

A brief extract from a report by **Matthew Gardner, Brent Borough Commander** on Brent Police achievements mid-2010 - end 2011.

There have been some great successes, but challenges are always ahead in preventing and dealing with crime.

Total arrests for 2010/11 were 13,183 - an extra 1,181 arrests on the previous year. Brent has the highest arrest rate in London from stop and search and the highest 'offences brought to justice' rate in London. Just over 34% of all crime has a criminal brought to justice. Brent has the highest detection rate for all crime in London. We have detected more street crime than any other London Borough over the last two years.

If you've any information, however small you may feel it is, please contact us via 'crime stoppers' on **0800 555111**, your local Safer neighbourhood Teams or via the Met Police Website www.met.police.co.uk. Thank you for your continued support. *Matthew Gardner*

JOHN BLANDY - Lime Tree Series

John Blandy can often be seen standing in the park with an easel and a box of pastels, painting. For the last fourteen years, John has been following one tree, a small leafed lime; sometimes once a day, sometimes once a week. The whole collection of work has now been gathered together as a record, mapping changes over time. To show these changes from year to year, he has three pastels of the lime from the same day but different years, in a small show at Worldly, Wicked and Wise. www.johnblandy.co.uk



FOOD WASTE PAPER BAGS

Do you have a problem disposing of your food waste? It can be a sticky problem if dumped directly into the large green wheelie bin. There is ongoing debate about how to deal with it hygienically and without mess.

Brent does not allow the use of compost-bin bags available from supermarkets which resemble plastic bags but they do allow the use of paper to wrap the waste. Food waste can be wrapped in quantities of newspaper. Not everyone, however, has piles of old newspapers, so another solution is to use paper bags designed for the purpose (they remain intact for some time even if damp).

Thank you to all those who have written asking to be part of a bulk-buying scheme. No need, as luckily for us, Wordly Wicked and Wise in Salisbury Road will be stocking these bags, which will be 10litre caddy-bin size.



My Moves Playgroup

St Anne's Church, Salisbury Road
Drop In Fridays 10am-12pm term time
 £2 voluntary donation
 Benefits Salisbury World

QUEEN'S PARK MATTERS

The January QPARA meeting was lively as ever. Among the many topics were

- Welcome to newcomers and the pleasure in meeting new neighbours or even old neighbours, who have not previously come to the meetings. It was good to hear fresh ideas.
- Speeding in our residential streets. Would you press for a 20mph zone?
- 101, the Police non-emergency number.
- Lack of lift and lavatories at Queen's Park Station.

Much else was aired and argued. Do come along to the next meeting, have a cup of tea and make your views felt. The more the merrier. Councillor James Denselow was there, whom you can often meet at the QPARA meetings. We want to hear from you. Send articles of interest to share with your neighbours.



CC's Cake Shop

A small independent bakery, specialising in cup cakes, layer cakes, loaf cakes, the best organic tea and coffee and freshly squeezed juice combos. A quirky tea room, with its 50s feel and baking kitchen, CC's holds

BAKING AND COOKING CLASSES for children and adults, and kids **PARTIES**.

SPECIAL CAKES are made to order and there are wheat-free cakes on the menu.

Info or bookings 07710 423 541
www.cccakeshop.co.uk

WE AREN'T GETTING ANY YOUNGER! - Elders Voice

If you fall into the category of elderly, there is an organisation nearby – Elders Voice – which can be encouraging and helpful in times of need or even if you feel like a bit of a change. With their strong team of volunteers, they are there to:

- Listen to you;
- Assist in getting practical help;
- Provide information and advice;
- Bring people together and have fun.

Elders Voice
 181 Mortimer Road
 NW10 5TN
 020 8968 8170
www.eldersvoice.org.uk



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF... THE LEXI... ROLL UP!

As I unlock the front doors I'm crossing my fingers I find the cinema left ready to roll. Last night's private hire - an elaborate 50th birthday party with salsa band - ended late. Hire is the life blood of our little cinema. At 77 seats, the industry thinks us too small to be viable, and it's a challenge to continue to prove them wrong. Weddings, corporate events, kids' birthday parties, previews - you name it, our little space has hosted it! This morning, we have BBC Persia, who regularly record their radio links; this afternoon, local QPCS are bringing in an A-Level media studies group.

First task today is to confirm next week's programme. Programming is the greatest challenge of a cinema. We are blessed with a broad and sophisticated NW10 (and beyond) audience, allowing us to programme many films we love, but it is a continual learning curve. The film distributors hold all the aces. "No, you can't have Mr Allen's latest. He's only releasing it on film, even though most cinemas now are digital. So-rry!" Or, "If we let you have **rr* **tt** in its first week of release, you must screen it four times a day every day." Life as a spirited little underdog can be tough!

Panic stations! One of tonight's volunteers calls in ill. Our friendly volunteers are the soul of the cinema - and another essential part of the Big Idea behind the Lexi. The cinema is a social enterprise, with all profits going to support a small, mixed race village in South Africa. Volunteering means supporting a vulnerable community at the other end of the world, while generating its own lovely community chez Chamberlayne Rd. An SOS to our list of 40+ volunteers quickly plugs the hole - typical of our sterling crew!

Meanwhile, the ticket line operators have been putting calls through steadily; we are playing live-by-satellite opera

from New York on Saturday. It is a pleasure to meet different elements in our local 'hood; the niche documentaries bring in another crowd again, and the cacophonous Monday morning carers + babies screenings promote an intense, if brief, bond.

Yikes - it's that time already?!? The evening's Duty Manager is unlocking the front door, and the replacement volunteer will arrive shortly. Time to dim the auditorium lights and bring up the music. Although my jobs for the day are done, the working day of your local community cinema is just beginning... To borrow the words of the incomparable Mae West: "Come up and see us sometime!"

Carin von Drehle tel 0871 7042069
 194b Chamberlayne Rd, NW10 3JU
www.thelexicinema.co.uk

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2012

QPARA MONTHLY MEETINGS

8pm, second Thursdays of the month at St Anne's, Salisbury Road, opposite Brooksville Avenue
 7.30pm refreshments - 8pm meeting starts

9th February – Presentation on the future of the **Queen's Park Station area** encompassing Cullen House, Keniston Press, Falcon Public House, Premier House and the station car park, by Brent Council's design team. Speakers will include Alex Hearn and architects Maccreanor Lavington.

A major mixed use development is being proposed for the area, including residential and retail, as part of the wider South Kilburn regeneration programme. This is an update on the presentation given to QPARA in July 2011.

There is a possible alternative scheme by **High Speed Rail (HS2)** to use the car park and Keniston site as the location for a substantial tunnel shaft building.

8th March – Transport and Parking

YOUR VIEWS YOUR NEWSLETTER

As a resident of Queen's Park, this is your Newsletter. To try to gauge the satisfaction derived from receiving a regular paper newsletter, we would be very interested to know your thoughts. Is it something you value? Would you miss it? Do you think it can be replaced by an electronic version, one you can access at any time online, via the website or other device? Please email with your views. Contact details below.

COMPETITIONS - CARTOONS

Do you fancy yourself as a cartoonist? Handy with pen and ink? Graphically witty? If so, please send in a contribution.

The subject is "Dog Walkers". Open to all ages – do send in your offering (with name and age if under 16) to cheer us all up – much needed on these dark wintry days. We will publish the winner, if there is one. Must be original work.

Wit and Wisdom

Do you have either or are you even blessed with both? Here's one to get you going ...

"At age fifty, every man has the face he deserves." **George Orwell**

Do send in your gems – we'll publish our favourites. Send, marked 'Great Wit' or 'Lesser Twit'. Don't forget to identify yourself! **Closing date 31st March 2012.** Contact details below.



QPARA MONTHLY MEETINGS continued...

12th April
14th June
12th July

BOOK FESTIVAL

Friday 30th March Quiz Night Fundraiser
Sat/Sun 19th/20th May Festival Weekend

AREA CONSULTATIVE FORUM

for Kilburn and Kensal Rise
Wednesday 4th April, 7pm at Kensal Rise Primary School, Harvist Road, NW6 6HJ, to consult with people who live in the area about council policy etc. Contact bola.olatunde@brent.gov.uk or **020 8937 1073** - agenda/join mailing list. Chaired by local Cllr James Denselow, cldr.james.denselow@brent.gov.uk

OPEN GARDENS AND STUDIOS

Sunday 17th June

QUEEN'S PARK SINGERS CONCERTS

Sunday 29th April; Sunday 17th June
www.queensparkingers.org.uk

Contact Details:

Email EditorQPNews@gmail.com to notify us of events, contributions or advertisements. **DEADLINE 15th March.**

LOCAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Brent is seeking your views on their draft Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). This is an online survey focusing on the key health issues and health inequalities in Brent. Please contact Andrew Davies, **020 8937 1609** or andrew.davies@brent.gov.uk or search for JSNA on www.brent.gov.uk to see proposals and draft strategy. **Survey deadline is 23 March.**

QUEEN'S PARK STATION AREA PROGRESS REPORT

Many residents will remember the abandoned controversial proposals for a multi storey residential tower for the site immediately to the south of Queen's Park station. The development of this site is one part of the much wider South Kilburn Regeneration Project and now fresh proposals for the station site are being formulated. The architects Maccreanor Lavington were asked to produce their ideas for the area and these were exhibited at meetings last year and on 16th November at St Luke's Church on Fernhead Road. Unfortunately very little notice of the November exhibition was received by Queen's Park residents.

This exhibition showed a predominantly residential scheme encompassing the car park near the station, Keniston Press, Cullen House, the Falcon pub, Premier House and the TFL offices. Proposals shown were for 150 new homes (30% to be affordable rented and 70% for private sale) with a communal private courtyard, some on-site parking, along with new local shops and cafés and some new public space. Some parts of the scheme were shown to be 8 or 9 storeys high, others much lower. The road layout would change, with the one-way system south of the station removed and the town-bound bus stop moved into Kilburn Lane.

The designs for the area are still being developed and some details, particularly those relating to the height and 'massing' of the buildings, being modified. An updated presentation was made on 11th January at the Kilburn and Kensal Area Consultative Forum and there will be further chances to see and discuss the plans on 9th February at the QPARA meeting (8pm St Anne's Church) and on 29th February at St Luke's Church, Fernhead Road from 3 – 7pm. The Regeneration team hope to submit the planning application to the council in early March 2012.

There is a possible complication; at least part of the station site might be required by the High Speed Rail team to build a large ventilation shaft for the new tunnel, which will run underneath this area. If this happens, the scheme cannot progress in its current form, but

the Regeneration Team hopes to make progress with the scheme before the 'safeguarding' or HS2 starts in autumn 2012.

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SALUSBURY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Friends of Salusbury School (FOSS) pulled out all the stops once again and mounted, with the help of too many to mention, a very enjoyable fair early in December. The weather was perfect for an outdoor winter event, the day being dry and bright. It was busier than ever this year with well over 500 people attending. The event received sponsorship from Queen's Park Partnership, staunch supporters of community events in the area, for which the school is most appreciative. David Hodge, assistant treasurer for FOSS, said "We more than reached our expectations on how much we raised for the school although the event is not just seen as a fundraising event but more as a fun event for the families of the school and the Queen's Park Community". All the feedback received confirmed it was an event greatly enjoyed by those who attended.

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QPARA - MEMBERSHIP

We'd love you to join our membership.

We have run out of space for our full Membership Form in this edition. Do please contact the **Membership Secretary, Mark Norbury**, at **22 Windermere Avenue, NW6 6LN** for details of how to join.

You can also see Subscription details on our website. Only £10 a year or £100 for Life Membership. Members receive the Minutes of QPARA's monthly meetings – a riveting read full of local goings on. Hoping to hear from you!