

# Queen's Park News

Queen's Park Area Residents' Association

November 2019

## QPARA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 14th November, Inter Faith Centre, St Anne's and St Andrew's Church, Salisbury Road, 7.30 pm refreshments, 8pm meeting begins

Virginia Brand, Chair, Queen's Park Area Residents' Association

Our AGM is a fantastic opportunity for everyone in Queen's Park to hear about the work of our association over the past year. In 2019 we planted sixty new street trees. We organised another hugely successful Queen's Park Day in September, attracting a record 19,500 people. The Queen's Park Book Festival in June hosted dozens of notable writers, including two Booker Prize winners – there's more on both events in this newsletter.

Big events like these are important, but they are just the tip of the QPARA iceberg. The hidden part is the enormous amount of work QPARA's volunteers do to keep Queen's Park the extraordinary place it is. For example, the new planters at the police station corner are the work of QPARA volunteers led by Robert Budwig, Helen Durnford and Andra King, who maintain all the QPARA planters along Salisbury Road. Our committees work ceaselessly to protect our environment, improve our policing, maintain high conservation standards, and co-operate with other local associations pressing for more effective action on air quality and pollution.



Here is Robert at work

If you are new to the area, do come to us with your suggestions on how to improve our very special green urban gem. If you are not a QPARA member, do join us. New members join us all the time, thanks to our brilliant membership secretary Marika Szalanczi. And there is no better way to get a flavour of the year-round work we do than by coming to our AGM.

As I come towards the end of my period as Chair, I would like to thank everyone who has made such an invaluable contribution to the work we do in Queen's Park. Long may QPARA continue to flourish!

## QUEEN'S PARK CRIME CONCERNS

Janis Denselow

Urgent concerns about crime and policing in Queen's Park were raised at a sometimes heated local meeting in September with the Deputy London Mayor with responsibility for crime and policing, Sophie Linden. The meeting, chaired by our MP Tulip Siddiq, heard complaints about anti-social behaviour and worries about the impact of a diminishing Safer Neighbourhood Police Team.

Particular concerns were raised by residents from Keslake Road with a catalogue of issues and frustrations over persistent anti-social behaviour by a small group of visitors/residents who congregate at the benches and planters at the junction with Chamberlayne Road. QPARA wants these concerns addressed in the proposed plan to improve the 'Chamberlayne Corridor' (see p3).

We know that budget cuts mean fewer police. But numbers are not the only issue – we also want police who stay for a while, put down roots, get to know our community and meet us regularly to share information and listen to our concerns.



One important message from the meeting is that every crime should be properly reported – not just shared with your neighbours. The police resources we get for our ward depend on crime statistics. Crime that doesn't show in the stats doesn't exist when decisions about resources are made.

If a crime is happening there and then, phone 999. Phone 101 for all other crimes or to share urgent information (apparently 101 reporting has improved). Crime can also be reported online - search on **Report a crime The Met** - and the police will get back to you within 24 hours.

## QUEEN'S PARK DOCTORS IN MEGA MERGER

Robin Sharp

From the start of December, Queen's Park will have the biggest traditional GP practice in north west London. This will result from the merger of Lonsdale, Blessing, and Park House practices to produce a patient list of 23,600. In effect this means that Lonsdale is absorbing the two smaller practices, though the Blessing site in Kilburn Lane will remain open for the time being.



This 3-way merger is also the biggest operation of its kind, as far as we know. It is the shape of things to come in the NHS as smaller practices, however much cherished by their patients, struggle to remain viable when older doctors retire.

Considering the speed with which it is being carried out, this merger would be challenging at the best of times and the start date has already been delayed because of 'technical issues'. However, a new full-time manager, Amanda Meehan has now been appointed. As she has been a key advisor helping to plan the merger, we can hope that she will ensure a smooth transition once the immediate problems have been sorted out. After that, there is a chance that we will have one of the most cutting-edge GP practices in London.

This newsletter is produced and delivered to all households and places of business in the area, free of charge, by the Queen's Park Area Residents' Association. QPARA is a non-sectarian, non-political, non-profit making community organisation established to promote a better quality of life in the Queen's Park area.

## CELEBRATING SALUSBURY WORLD'S FIRST 20 YEARS *Duncan McAusland*

Salusbury World, our local refugee agency based in Salusbury Primary School, was launched in 1999. Its mission is to support and empower refugee and migrant children, young people and families, to overcome obstacles, realise their rights and potential and participate fully in society.

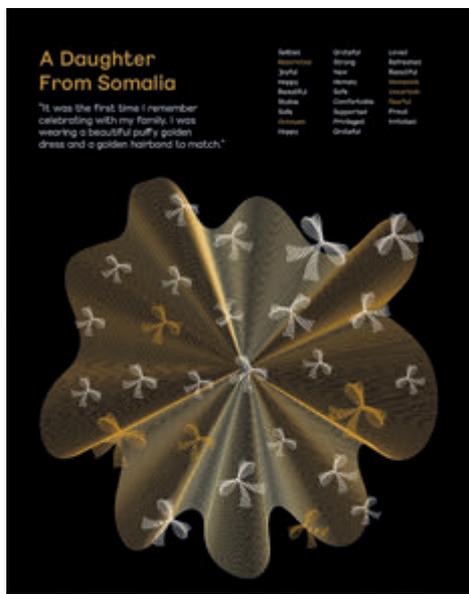
To celebrate its 20th anniversary it launched an intriguing multimedia arts and heritage project called 20:20, based on the experiences of twenty of the first families helped.

Catching up with some of the children (now in their 20s and 30s) and their parents, interviews have been recorded of their recollections of flight, landing in the UK and their reflections over the years of becoming proud Londoners.

The show was first seen at the Victoria & Albert Museum. Now, in collaboration with the London College of Communication and other organisations, a series of artistic pieces has been created by students, based on the first ten of these stories. The exhibition of recordings, photos and artworks is now at Willesden Library until 15th January, along with a programme of poetry readings, theatre and music. Come along and be amazed.

[www.salusburyworld.org.uk/2020project](http://www.salusburyworld.org.uk/2020project)

You too can help change a life – volunteers are always welcome at Salusbury World.



## SALUSBURY SCHOOL NEWS

*Stephanie Armstrong, Deputy Headteacher*

Salusbury Primary School has made a fantastic start to the new academic year. We welcomed our new Early Years families who have settled in and enjoyed a wonderful afternoon tea in the Greenspace. International Week and the European Day of Languages were celebrated with displays, performances, music and a tempting selection of international cuisine. In October, Black History Month focused on Great Black Britons with a competition for children to create art, poems or write about an inspirational black British person.

## QUEEN'S PARK BOOK FESTIVAL 'OASIS OF SANITY' *Susan Pym*

Glorious weather and an exciting line-up of writers drew big crowds to the Queen's Park Book Festival in June. Booker Prize winner Howard Jacobson captured the atmosphere in his New Statesman diary: 'it retains the charm of a garden fête... writers sign their books in the bandstand... everything is so lovely... this is an oasis of sanity.'



*Howard Jacobson reads from his latest novel*



*Penny Faith and Yvonne Bailey Smith answer questions in the Community tent*

The Community Tent showcased Brent writers including Yvonne Bailey-Smith, Steve Crabb, Chrys Salt and Marina Cantacuzino. Queen's Park resident, paediatrician Anthony Costello, discussed his book *The Social Edge* and his work with mothers and newborn children in developing countries. Nationally known writers included the latest Booker winner Bernadine Evaristo plus John Lanchester, Misha Glenny, Simon Mayo, Jonathan Coe, Sadie Jones and many others. Two pupils from Malorees School were presented with the first Queen's Park Book Festival Young Writers' award. We're already planning next year's festival – keep the last weekend in June free!

## PARK UPDATE

*Richard Gentry, Park Manager*

The park café has a temporary tenant - Hoxton Beach. They previously ran the café on a short-term arrangement in 2017 and they will now manage it while a tendering process is carried out between November and January 2020 to find a long term tenant. More information can be found about the process by emailing [queens.park@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:queens.park@cityoflondon.gov.uk). We look forward to welcoming a long-term tenant for this important park amenity.

The City of London has placed a hold on capital projects, which has affected plans for redeveloping the sandpit and park toilets. Local parents have raised concerns about failing equipment and the condition of the sandpit, and the park manager has met them to discuss its redevelopment. A workshop will be set up to support fundraising opportunities and involve the community more directly in the improvement of this much-loved area. In the meantime the existing equipment will be repaired.



*Keeper Callum feeds the goats in the Children's Farm*

The remodelled children's farm is a great success and new residents this year – the goats Dougal, Gilly and Gus, names given by local children – have settled in well. The tennis courts have been repainted and marked and are looking excellent. Bookings can be made through [www.playtenniscityoflondon.com](http://www.playtenniscityoflondon.com).

The park staff are pleased with their achievement of receiving a London in Bloom Gold Standard Award as well as the Green Flag and the Green Heritage Award. Queen's Park is one of only a handful of parks to win the Green Flag Award every year since its inception in 1997.

## AL-KHOEI FOUNDATION

*Aliya Azam*



Al Sadiq and Al Zahra schools, which used to be run as a single school have now become two separate schools, still on the same Chevening Road site.

On Thursday 7th November Al Zahra school choir will perform at the launch of the National Emergencies Trust at St-Martin-in-the-Fields. The Trust brings together many UK charities to provide a single collective response to major domestic emergencies. It was set up in the wake of the Grenfell fire.

## IN MY OPINION *Mike Cantor*

In my road there are parked two cars. One is a Ford Ka, the other is a Mercedes E320. Both cars pay the same £90 yearly parking charge. But the Ford occupies 3.62 metres of parking space while the Mercedes takes up 4.85 metres - a third more space.

It would surely be fairer if the charge reflected the amount of parking space a car takes up. Exceptions could be made for social need – say, a bigger car to transport disability equipment. Such a move might encourage residents to buy smaller cars and would be better for the roads and the environment. What do you think? Email [editorqnews@gmail.com](mailto:editorqnews@gmail.com).

# THE SUNNIEST, THE BUSIEST QUEEN'S PARK DAY



Photos Gabriel Simon and John Morrison

## WHAT'S IN A NAME? *Steve Crabb*

Salisbury, Harvist, Chamberlayne...we tend to take our street names for granted, seldom asking why they were chosen or if they've ever changed. But dig a little and you find some surprises. For example, I only discovered recently that Chevening Road was not always called Chevening Road – at least, not all of it. One end started life as Idstone Terrace, but by 1901, with fewer than 30 houses completed, Idstone Terrace had been erased from the maps.

Many local street names are the legacy of the builder Solomon Barnett, who constructed many roads in the Queen's Park area. Solomon named many of the roads after his wife's favourite places (Torbay, Honiton, Lynton) and poets (Tennyson).

Religion features in many names. Chamberlayne is named after Richard de Camera ('Richard of the Chamber'), a priest of St Paul's in the 1200s. Kempe is named after one of his 19th century successors. St Laurence's Close, off Chevening Road, commemorates the church that stood here.

Salisbury is not a misspelling of Salisbury but named after a Welsh family who once owned Brondesbury manor house. Harvist commemorates a 17th Century London brewer Edward Harvist, who set up a charitable trust that still supports local good causes.

There's one mystery I haven't solved – why Solomon Barnett gave the roads between Salisbury and the park their current names. If any readers can help with that challenge, I would be forever grateful!



## MAGICAL MADCAP MAYHEM

*Sue Fletcher, Executive Producer*

A drag-queen-inspired Puck, resplendent in scarlet sequined leggings, a grumpy Northern fairy and a cowardly Lion were just some of the ingredients of Tatty Hennessy's inspired production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* – Shakespeare in the Squares' fourth appearance in the beautiful Quiet Garden in Queen's Park, looking its very best thanks to the efforts of Richard Gentry and his team.

The sun shone, Wolfpack dispensed their wares and the ten children from Salisbury Primary School who enjoyed complimentary tickets from the company added to the sense of joyful celebration.

See you same time next year?



*Cast of Midsummer Night's Dream*

## NEW LOOK FOR CHAMBERLAYNE ROAD

*QPARA Transport and Streetscape Group*

Planned improvements for Chamberlayne Road should soon get the go-ahead. Brent consulted in July on fine details of design and, if approved, work will start early next year at the southern end of Chamberlayne (called Kilburn Lane there) and work up to Kensal Rise station area. Two boroughs are involved. Westminster will remodel the Harrow Road/Kilburn Lane junction, including much needed pedestrian lights. Brent will do the rest.

The work includes widening pavements on Chamberlayne's west side; planting new trees; and moving parking/loading to designated bays. The main roadway will be narrower, but it's hoped that by shifting parking, traffic – especially buses – will move more smoothly. Station Terrace will be remodelled too.

Consultation issues raised by residents include cycling and air quality - QPARA continues to highlight problems with air quality right across our area.

The design stage also enabled Keslake Road residents to add their ideas on how the planters and benches at their road end could be reshaped to help combat the anti-social behaviour problems there (see the front page report). QPARA volunteer and plant expert Pam Anderson Wood has provided and tended the planting there for many years, and our September meeting thanked her for her sterling efforts.

## DOUBTS OVER STATION SITE DEVELOPMENT

*QPARA Transport and Streetscape Group*

There are yet more question marks surrounding the proposed redevelopment of the big site by Queen's Park Station. This takes in the carpark plus Keniston Press (already demolished), Premier House, the road itself (called Premier Corner), the Falcon pub and Cullen House flats.

Planning permission was given seven years ago for 137 new homes, plus offices and shops. These plans were put on hold when HS2 earmarked part of the land for a huge vent shaft, but that plan was dropped and hopes rose that the regeneration work could finally begin in earnest. But Brent is now reviewing plans again for the site as there are unresolved issues within the partnership with preferred developer (London & Newcastle) including ownership of the empty Falcon pub.

## MORE THAN JUST BOOKS *Janis Denselow*

The library on Salisbury Road has a lot more to offer than just books, newspapers, DVDs and audio books. It also hosts many free activities. The latest is a coffee morning with a twist. On the first Wednesday of each month at 11am you can listen, learn and discuss a variety of stimulating topics. Coming up are the poetry of Keats & Wordsworth on 6th November and on 4th December Rachel Dedman from the V&A hosts a session on 'Palestinian Embroidery: Poetry, Politics and Resistance'.

## DIARY DATES 2019/2020

### QPARA MONTHLY MEETINGS

All welcome, **14th Nov – AGM**, then **12th Dec**, **9th Jan** and second Thurs of every month except April when the meeting will be on **16th April** and in Aug when there is no meeting. We meet at the Inter Faith Centre, St Anne's, Salusbury Rd. Do join us! 7.30pm tea/coffee, 8pm meeting starts.

### BRENT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Saturday performances at St Martin's Church, Mortimer Rd.

Autumn Concert, **9th Nov** 7.30pm.

Family Christmas Concert, **14th Dec** 6pm.

Introduction to Classical Music Concert, **14th Mar** 7.30pm.

Charity Concert, **13th Jun**, 7.30pm.  
[brentso.org.uk](http://brentso.org.uk)

### SALUSBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dig Days **Sun 3rd Nov**, **1st Dec** in the Greenspace, 10.30 – 12.30

Christmas Fair, **Sat 7th Dec** 11am – 3pm

### ST ANNE'S CHURCH

Act of Remembrance, **Mon 11th Nov** 11am, Paddington Old Cemetery.

Wreath making workshop, **Sat 7th Dec** 10am  
Tea and Chat Christmas Party, **Fri 13th Dec** 2.30pm.

Carols by Candlelight with Queen's Park Singers, **Sun 15th Dec** 4.30pm, in the church.

### QUEEN'S PARK SINGERS AND QUEEN'S PARK JUNIOR SINGERS

Concert incl Bach, Fauré and Maurice Duruflé's requiem, **Sun 24th Nov** 6.30pm, St Mark's Church Hamilton Terrace, NW8.

Carol singing in the streets around the park, **Fri 13th Dec**, meet 7.30pm corner of Kingswood and Summerfield Avenue. **Tues 17th Dec**, meet 7.30pm outside 7 Kempe Rd, Singing ends at 9.30pm. Anyone who would like to join us will be warmly welcomed.

St John Passion **Sun 22nd Mar** 6.30pm, St Martin's Church, Mortimer Rd.

[queensparksingers.org.uk](http://queensparksingers.org.uk)

### ALL SING! HARROW RD COMMUNITY CHOIR

Carol Singing **Sat 30th Nov** 3pm, Maida Hill Market [allsingchoir.wordpress.com](http://allsingchoir.wordpress.com).

### PARKLIFE SINGERS

Singing at turning on of Willesden festive lights, **Sat 7th Dec** 6pm by Willesden Library.

Christmas Concert, **Mon 9th Dec** 8pm,

Christchurch with St Laurence (corner Christchurch Ave & Willesden Lane)

Refreshments, concert free, donations to Laurence's Larder.

Festive Songs, **Sun 16th Dec** Mapesbury Dell, [parklifesingers.weebly.com](http://parklifesingers.weebly.com).

### QUEEN'S PARK

Pitch and Putt is open from 11am over the winter months, For details and for other events look in the park and at [cityoflondon.gov.uk/queenspark](http://cityoflondon.gov.uk/queenspark).

### BRENT CONNECTS – KILBURN

Brent Council local consultative forum, open to all, **Wed 8th Jan**, **Mon 30th Mar** 7pm – 9pm, [brent.gov.uk](http://brent.gov.uk).

### BRENT BOROUGH OF CULTURE 2020

Outdoor Opening event with local community cast **Sat 18th Jan**, Wembley Park  
All day street party, **Sat 11th July** Kilburn High Road see [brent2020.co.uk](http://brent2020.co.uk).

### SHAKESPEARE IN THE SQUARES

Next year's Shakespeare performance, June, Queen's Park, [shakespeareinthesquares.co.uk](http://shakespeareinthesquares.co.uk).

### QUEEN'S PARK BOOK FESTIVAL 2020

**27th and 28th June**, [qpbookfest.com](http://qpbookfest.com).

### QUEEN'S PARK DAY 2020

**13th Sep**, 12 – 5.30pm.

## DONATIONS FROM QPARA TO LOCAL GROUPS *Mike Cantor*

If QPARA has a surplus at the end of the financial year in March 2020, this surplus can be returned to charities/not for profit organisations operating for the benefit of the local community. Donations of up to £1000 can be made.

We will know at the QPARA AGM in November whether there will be a surplus and, if so, whether any surplus can be used to support local groups.

If you would like further information, contact [mikecantor18@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mikecantor18@yahoo.co.uk).

## BRENT 2020, LONDON'S BOROUGH OF CULTURE *Mike Cantor*

Brent 2020 means lots of lively projects across the borough, representing Brent's rich cultural mix. You can be a participant or a spectator. On Saturday 18th January at the Opening Event a community cast of hundreds will tell the story of Brent at Wembley Park in front of Wembley Stadium. On 11th July before the final of the UEFA Cup at Wembley, a mile of Kilburn High Road will be closed for a gigantic street party. Volunteers are welcomed for these and other events.

Brent 2020 also brings opportunities for Queen's Park's creative artists. A £500,000 fund has been set up to give local people the chance to lead their own cultural activities, with grants of up to £3,000 for individuals and £10,000 for groups. Applications for the third round of bids open on 16th January 2020. Search online for 'brent2020' to find out more.

## QUEEN'S PARK OPEN GARDENS & STUDIOS 2020

**Sunday 14th June 1–6pm**

*John Blandy*

This lively neighbourhood event, first organised in 1998 and every two years since, is a celebration of the quieter moments, inviting one to explore a mixture of local gardens and studios, with tea and music.

We are looking for gardeners and artists who would like to take part in this event which is presently pencilled in for 14th June 2020.

If you would like more information please contact John: [jb@johnblandy.co.uk](mailto:jb@johnblandy.co.uk).

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## Local relationship banking

Steven MacDonald

Branch Manager

Tel: 020 7372 9841

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## QPARA MEMBERSHIP

To join, please send your subscription to the Membership Secretary, Marika Szalanczi at 92 Chevening Road, NW6 6DY. [qpmembership@gmail.com](mailto:qpmembership@gmail.com)

**Annual £10** (£5 concessions)

**Annual standing order £8** (£4 concs)

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Contact Marika Szalanczi for details.

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