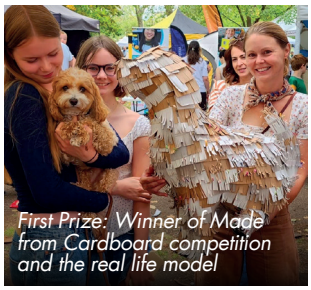
Queen's park News
Queen's Park Area Residents' Association
November 2026

QUEEN'S PARK DAY

Sunday the 13th September saw another successful day with many wonderful activities and competitions to keep the whole family amused. We all much appreciate the great park team who go above and beyond for us each year to create the Day. The 'Make a Splash' raffle helped raise another £7,500 towards our Splash Pad Appeal. Thank you to all the local businesses who donated such generous prizes. As the newsletter goes to print we need £36,000 to reach our target. We are particularly grateful to our photographers on the day: John Morrison, whose Instagram is @kilburnmyroad, and Mikko Eley, both of whom skilfully captured these memorable scenes:


Inspiration for QPD 2027?


Climbing wall as popular as ever


First Prize: Winner of Made from Cardboard competition and the real life model




Another prizewinner: A ship's galleon ready for the high seas







GROWING THE NEXT GENERATION OF STREET TREES

Mark Norbury

Trees are part of what makes Queen's Park such a lovely place to live. They add character to our streets, support wildlife, help filter air pollution and provide welcome shade. But even established street trees don't last forever. The gaps they leave aren't always filled, and new trees take years to mature. We need to plan ahead.

Local residents have helped organise and fund street tree planting in the past. QPARA is building on those efforts, working with Brent Council to help bring more trees to our streets.

We're starting with Windermere Avenue, where residents have been identifying possible locations for new trees. There's interest from other streets too, and QPARA can help explore the possibilities and coordinate proposals with Brent.



Planting a tree isn't right for every location and people understandably have questions about roots, nearby buildings and the long-term impact of a tree outside their home. Residents can suggest the type of tree they'd like, and Brent assesses each site and advises on suitable species before approving planting.

The cost to residents is £400 per tree, which can be paid by an individual household or shared between neighbours. Brent arranges planting, normally during the winter. Young trees need care and watering while they become established, and residents should be prepared to help with this.

Would you like more trees on your street?
If you are interested in exploring the possibilities, or you'd be willing to help bring neighbours together on your street, we'd love to hear from you. Together, we can help keep Queen's Park leafy for generations to come.

Contact QPARA: ***comms@qpark.org.uk***

This newsletter is produced and delivered to all local households and businesses free of charge by the Queen's Park Area Residents' Association. QPARA is non-sectarian, non-political, non-profit making and has been working for our community since 1973.

FOPOC

Andy Lowe

Friends of Paddington Old Cemetery are pleased to report on their recent involvement with Middlesex University's Department of Interior Architecture & Design using the chapels for their autumn term project.



FoPOC, in conjunction with Brent Cemeteries, gave an introductory presentation into the history of the cemetery and how to read the multi-layered meaning within the space.

We look forward to seeing the designs and ideas that the students develop. It is hoped that the designs may be exhibited locally as a way to share community involvement and promote discussion on the ways that the chapels may be re-used in the future.

Following some complications over the summer requiring a rearrangement of the safety fencing to protect the public, the project to raise funding to restore the chapels is proceeding. Brent have recently ringfenced funds to initiate repair work, hopefully leading to a more substantial heritage funding bid for full restoration. We are actively seeking ideas from groups interested in occupying the chapels either for short-term meanwhile use during the phased building work or as a long-term final tenant.

www.fopoc.com

IN OTHER NEWS....

Magdalen Evans, Editor

Many lament the slow but inexorable decline of local newspapers so it is good to know that in their absence, the role of independent local scrutiny continues through blogs and social media accounts.



Here are some that have caught my eye because they focus on keeping our rivers and canals clean, litter-picking and architectural history. For stories beyond the QP boundary on 'X' are: @BrentPollution, @CanLager and @OldLondonW14.

Readers are welcome to nominate others for our next edition.

JOIN OUR EDITORIAL TEAM

Would you like to join our small team of volunteers to help put this newsletter together twice a year?

Please get in touch if you're interested in all things local and have an eye for detail!

comms@qpark.org.uk

LOCAL CHOIR *Nancy Platt*

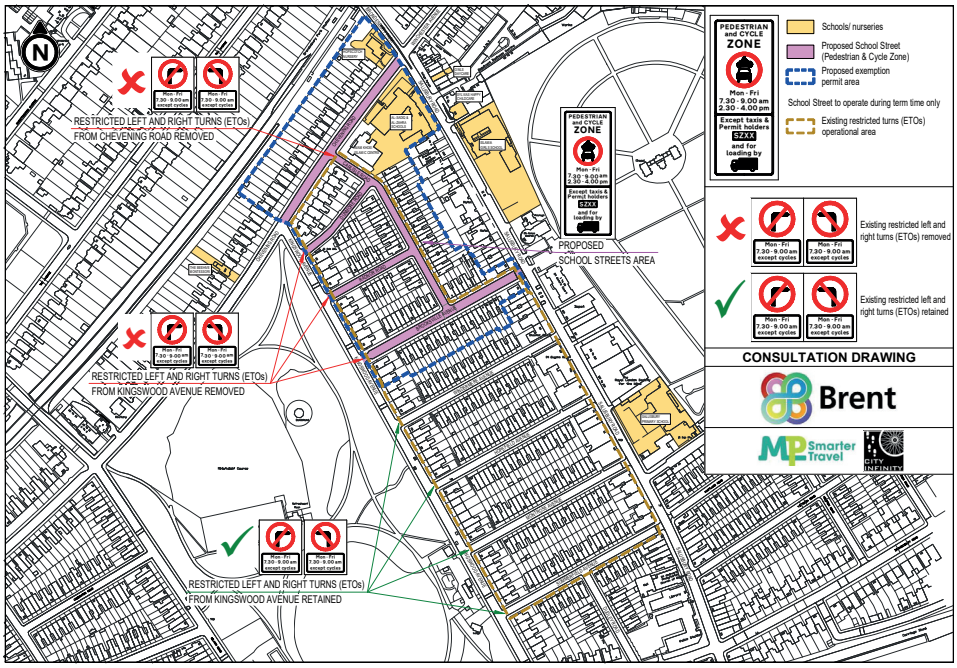
Every Tuesday evening during term-time rehearsals take place at St John's Church Kensal Green with our wonderful local choir. It doesn't matter if you've never sung before, anyone is free to turn up and give it a go. There are no auditions and all they ask for is enthusiasm and commitment. Last term songs were sung in Japanese, Zulu, Ukrainian and Irish; this term it includes seasonal songs in Arabic and Afrikaans.





So there's no lack of ambition and the choir has performed at Wigmore Hall amongst other venues. They offer a free concert or workshop every term.
https://allsingchoir.wordpress.com
Instagram @allsingchoir

QPARA TRANSPORT AND STREETSCAPE GROUP



Brent's consultation has just closed on a proposed School Street for Chevening Road, plus whether to make permanent the morning peak time restrictions covered by the current Experimental Traffic Order (ETO) for avenues east of Queen's Park.

QPARA increasingly sees its role as ensuring that our membership engages fully with such consultations, rather than necessarily taking a firm position on proposals. Accordingly, we circulated the consultation to our 400 plus members as soon as it was published, encouraging them all to respond.

If implemented, the School Street would cover the eastern end of Chevening Road, where traffic issues are pronounced at school start and finish times, and streets towards (and including) Brooksville. The proposal has some overlap with the ETO, so Brent linked the consultations. The ETO, which flowed from pressure from residents in southern avenues about morning peak hour traffic cutting through, has sometimes proved controversial, in a way that is not typical of our neighbourhood. QPARA has previously canvassed the idea of a more wide-reaching traffic scheme, but so far this is not to be. QPARA has concerns about Brent's approach in these exercises, such as consultation not being across a wider area, and plans to share them with Brent Highways.

QUEEN'S GREENS

A new initiative has been launched to harness the enthusiasm of local volunteers to help keep Queens's Park itself in good shape. Please see ***www.heath-hands.org.uk*** for more information.

Heath Hands

IT'S YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD: HAVE YOUR SAY

JOIN QPARA, YOUR LOCAL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Since 1973, QPARA has brought neighbours together to protect and improve our neighbourhood. We organise Queen's Park Day, support greener streets, raise local concerns with the council and produce the newsletter you're reading.

We're an independent, non-political residents' association, run by local volunteers.

Membership helps sustain that work. It also keeps you informed through meeting invitations and minutes, and gives you a say in QPARA's priorities.

WHETHER YOU'RE NEW TO QUEEN'S PARK OR HAVE LIVED HERE FOR YEARS, YOU'RE WELCOME TO JOIN.

Becoming a member is a valuable way to show your support. And if you'd like to get more involved, there are plenty of opportunities.

JOIN OR RENEW TODAY

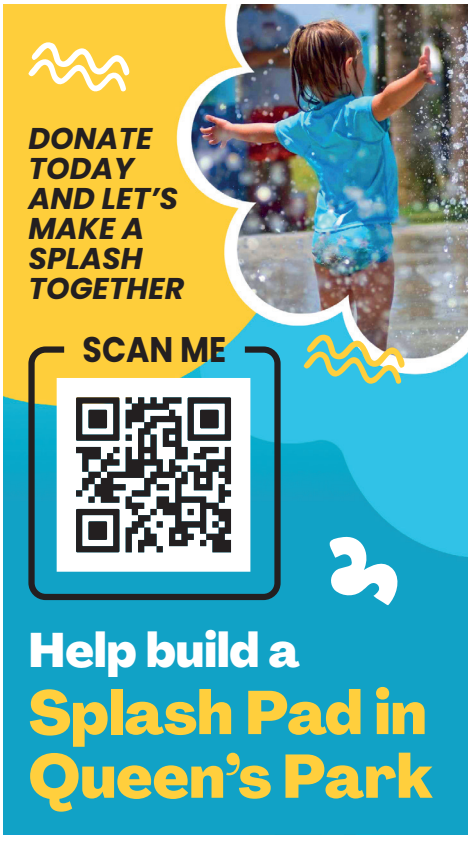
Scan the QR code above or on the back page of this newsletter or visit ***qpark.org.uk/join-us***

QUEEN'S PARK CAFÉ UPDATE

Clare Gillan

Hoxton Beach, the current operator of the Queen's Park Café has been granted permission to take its legal challenge against the City of London Corporation to the High Court. The tender for the café was awarded to Daisy Green in December 2025. Despite being given notice by the landlord, Hoxton Beach have refused to vacate the premises and allege that the tender process was unfair. The City of London Corporation defends the decision. The hearing will take place by 17th December 2026.





A NEW BENCH

Robin Sharp



Queen's Park has a pleasing and sturdy new street bench outside Salusbury Primary School. It was installed on 3 September and formally opened by Cllr Deborah Unger. The bench is in honour and with fond memories of the late Celia Frank, member of QPARA and dedicated advocate for cherishing our environment. The wording of the commemorative plaque is by Martin, Celia's husband.

Provision of the bench was due to a heartening collaboration led by Gabrielle Crockatt of QPARA. Mark Norbury helped with the rapid fundraising of £1700. Robin Sharp liaised with Gladson the makers while Solomon Nere of Brent organised the storage of the bench once delivered and its installation on the day. The bench is already proving its worth for shoppers and other passers-by. We believe that Celia would have approved of this legacy.



CHILDREN'S POSTER COMPETITION

Design a Christmas poster to advertise our much-loved 'Carols Around the Tree' event in the park, happening on Sunday 6 December at 3.30pm. No text, beautiful picture only! Open to all, up to the age of 16. Submissions on A4 size only.

Submit by 18 November to the park café with name, age and contact details on the back. The top 10 entries will be displayed in the café until Christmas.

GUERRILLA GARDENERS

Sue Herbert

Our volunteer group brightened up Chamberlayne Road with sunflowers for the summer, but keeping the beds watered through the hot dry weather was a challenge!

A Love Where You Live grant obtained by Lou Rota will be used this autumn to fill up empty spaces with new plants. Locally funded steel planters have been put in place in readiness. We're hearing more and more appreciative comments from shopkeepers and local residents, and the hope is to keep the tended beds free of litter, trampling and damage from bikes and vehicles.

Last Saturday of the month from 10.00am. Meet at Keslake Road Pocket Park. All welcome!



DIARY DATES

QPARA MONTHLY MEETINGS

AGM **Thursay 12th November** at **8pm**
Then **Thursay 10th December** and the second Thursday of every month. We hold hybrid meetings, in-person at ICMP Salusbury Road and on Zoom.

BRENT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

BSO BRENT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Saturday 14th November at **7:30pm**
Fate & Fantasy conducted by Levon Parikian
St Martin's Church, Mortimer Road. Kensal Rise NW10 5SN
Doors open at 7pm and tickets are available on the door as well as online
www.brentso.org.uk

Saturday 12th December at **6pm**
Stars in Screen, music from films
Conducted by Levon Parikian
St Martin's Church, Mortimer Road. Kensal Rise NW10 5SN

QUEEN'S PARK SINGERS

QUEEN'S PARK SINGERS

Sunday 22nd November at **6:30pm**
Autumn Concert: An evening of French music
Free Church, Hampstead Garden Suburb, NW11 7AG

Sunday 6th December at **3:30pm**
Join the Queen's Park Singers for 'Carols around the Tree' in front of the café in Queen's Park, mulled wine & mince pies. All welcome.

Tueday 15th December from **7:30-9pm**
Carol Singing around the Park, east side. Meet at corner of Summerfield and Kingswood Avenues.

Thursday 18th December from **7:30-9pm**
Carol singing around the Park, west side. Meet outside 7 Kempe Road.
Please bring along any copies of 'Carols for Choirs Vol.1' if you can and photocopies will be shared amongst neighbours too. Collecting for Laurence's Larder.

Saturday 7th March at **6:30pm**
Spring Concert - Nordic Lights with saxophone quartet
All Soul's Parish Church, 1 Station Road Harlesden, NW10 4UJ
www.queensparksingers.uk

ALL SING HARROW ROAD COMMUNITY CHOIR

Sunday 6th December at **7pm**
A Seasonal Celebration of Song
St John's Church,
2 Kilburn Lane (corner of Harrow Road)
W10 4AA
Free and open to all + refreshments.
allsingchoir.wordpress.com

ALL SING HARROW ROAD COMMUNITY CHOIR

LARDER CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Laurence's Larder

Saturday 5th December from **11am-4pm**
Free entry, suggested donation £2
Christ Church, NW6 7BJ
www.laurenceslarder.org.uk

SALUSBURY PRIMARY WINTER FAIR

Saturday 5th December
from **3-6 pm**
The time has come for the annual winter fair. For further details, see their Instagram at ***@friendsofsalusbury***

friends of salusbury school

QPCS WINTER FAIR & CONCERT

QPCS Queens Park Community School

Wednesday 9th December from **5-8pm**
For further details, see their Instagram at ***@qpcs_ptfa***
If you would like to volunteer to help out
PTFA@qpcs.brent.sch.uk

WARM SPACE FRIDAYS

Every other **Friday** from **12-2pm**, starting **Friday 6th November**
Everyone welcome - light refreshments served, games, music, reading materials and good fellowship. A warm welcome awaits you!
Hazel Road Community Centre, 26 Hazel Road NW10 5PP

Warm Welcome Spaces



Love your neighbourhood
Rethink your home
RISEdesignstudio.co.uk

RISE
RIBA Chartered Architects



ST MARTIN'S KENSAL RISE

Magdalen Evans, Editor

Eagle-eyed readers will notice how many community activities take place at the church on Mortimer Road. Consecrated in 1900, St Martin's was a gift from the friends and former pupils of Harrow School's Headmaster C.J.Vaughan. Designed by the Cutts brothers in typical Victorian red brick style, a planned tower and spire were never built, but the beautiful stained glass was installed by the world-renowned firm of Henry Payne between 1910 and 30.

An unusual altarpiece of the Resurrection stands in the south aisle. Painted in tempera by John D.Batten (1860-1932), his wife Mary carved and gilded the triptych much admired by scholars of late Victorian art.



JOIN QPARA

www.qpark.org.uk/join-us

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