

WHITEHALL PARK AREA

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

WWW.WHPARA.ORG.UK

Autumn/Winter 2009 Newsletter

Dear Member,

It was good to “meet and greet” you at our AGM in April. Our display of proposals for the development of Archway prepared jointly with the Better Archway Forum attracted interest and lively discussion. Following on from that we heard from Anna Woodward, the Archway Town Centre Manager about the issues she had been tackling since her appointment by Islington Council. She mentioned street drinking and litter, safety, planning and the use of space around the area, liaising with businesses in community events, co-operation with London Transport and other concerns raised by residents. I think we all agree that it’s high time we see more action taken to improve Archway. We want to be proud of where we live.

Still looking ahead, as Autumn draws near and daylight grows shorter it’s no time to hibernate, we aim to carry on with business as usual and bring you up-to-date with news and events.

First the good news, we are happy to welcome Heather Eggins, as our new Membership Secretary. Success at long last in filling this important position.

Now read on...

Gloria Chandra
Chair, WHPARA

FIRST ENTRY for your diary - our **ANNUAL CHARITY CONCERT in aid of the Cold Weather Winter Night Shelter at St. Andrew’s Church will be held on FRIDAY, 20TH NOVEMBER FROM 7.30pm.** Last December we were treated to an outstanding musical/dance performance by Layil Barr and her musical ensemble. You will be pleased to know that she is returning with another exciting and entertaining programme to start the run up to December. **BE SURE TO BOOK IT NOW.** Watch out for our Posters which will be on display in good time. Just to remind you, the Cold Weather Night Shelter provides food and accommodation to the homeless and deprived members of our community from January to end of March. To find out how you can help contact Rev’d Rob Powell at 020 7686 2293 or Gloria Chandra at 020 7263 1920.

And after music here’s an invitation to DANCE. St. Andrew’s Church in Whitehall Park invites you to a BARN DANCE on SATURDAY 7th NOVEMBER from 6.30-10.30pm. A promise of good food and fun for the whole family guaranteed at affordable prices - £10 single ticket, £5 per child and £20 for a family.

Also coming up on 14th November, St. Andrew's will be holding a **Re-Cycling Party** with refreshments from 11am-2pm. Bring your good quality, unwanted articles/gifts and exchange them for something you do want. What a chance to pass on Great Aunt Maud's Tea Cosy! **Entry is free.**

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Archway Winter Craft Fair : A two-day event starting on **Saturday, 5th December from 10am – 5pm and Sunday 6th December from 11am – 5pm. (Fee for both days £70).** The Fair will provide an opportunity for 40 participants to promote and sell their work in a festive atmosphere. The venue is Archway Methodist Church – yards from a Rowan Arts Project which is well established in North London with a loyal mailing list of over a thousand people. The Project is seeking feedback from this kind of event. The Fair will accommodate a wide range of crafts/artists with a focus on the contemporary and affordable. There will be a café on site, free workshops for children and entertainment.

Venue address: Archway Methodist Church, Archway Close, N19 3TD (opposite Archway Tube Station).

Parking is free all weekend and help with offloading will be provided on request.

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BOOK CLUB: Are you interested in joining a number of enthusiasts who enjoy reading and engaging in lively discussion on new or old titles which have impressed or challenged you in some way? Find out more by contacting **Rosemary Seton at 0207 263 6013 or Romy Jenkins at 0207 263 9787.**

PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: Recycling Scheme at Archway Market. Do you know that you can take your used vegetable oil and discarded household batteries to the Market? - where your oil will be turned into greener diesel which produces no net CO2 and up to 20 times less carbon monoxide. The batteries will be recycled for their metals. Visit www.islington.gov.uk/recycling; tel. 020 7527 or email: contact@islington.gov.uk. The Market is open on Saturdays from 10am-5pm and there is a Mini Market on Thursdays from 12-6pm.

STREET ENVIRONMENT WARDENS: Islington's team of Street Environment Wardens are there to help promote civic pride and encourage better behaviour with respect to anti-social activities such as dropping litter, dog fouling and fly posting and reporting street defects to the proper departments. If your sleep is being disturbed by noisy garden or roof terrace parties or you find pot holes in your street or any of the offences listed above let your Street Warden know. You can reach them at 020 7527 2000; email: contact@islington.gov.uk or www.islington.gov.uk. You can also get useful advice on how to secure your bicycle from theft.

POLICE NEWS: **Sergeant Aidan Driver is now in charge of our Safer Neighbourhood Team. We are delighted to hear that our ward Hillrise has the lowest crime rate in the whole of Islington but sad that the WHPARA area is still the focus of most of its burglaries and vehicle crime. We thus continue to be a major priority for the SNT but members are urged to report all crimes, however small, so that our statistics are accurate and we can continue to enjoy the maximum police support.**

We are sure you do not need reminding of simple crime prevention measures particularly in front gardens, pruning hedges and bushes, having low density lighting so that burglars can be seen, increasing the height of walls and fences with trellises or thorny planting, locking ladders down, checking that you have adequate locks on doors and windows. Older members should beware bogus callers: do not let them in unless they can provide suitable ID or ask them to make an appointment when you have a friend present. The Police can advise on property marking for items like children's bikes.

See the WHPARA website for contact telephone numbers www.whpara.org.uk/police.asp

BETTER ARCHWAY FORUM: Following a sustainability event in May this year, a number of useful ECO suggestions came to the fore. Did you know that you can achieve a significant reduction of Kg of CO2 per year if –

- You never use a plastic bag = 5kg
- Install one low energy light bulb = 17kg
- Switch off your TV standby = 25kg
- Turn down heating by one degree = 230kg
- Become vegetarian = 500kg
- Make one less flight = 350kg per hour

(This information provided by the Highgate Climate Action Network and forwarded by Kate Calvert from BAF)

For more details on how you can reduce CO2 from our homes or if you are interested in joining a group looking into this particular area then email:

contact@betterarchway.info

BAF also disclosed that certain Grants can be made available by Islington and Central Government for the following:

Hot water panels £400 from Central Government and £2,000 from Islington (average installation cost £4,500). **Photo Voltaic** - £2,500 from Central Government and £2,000 from Islington (average installation cost £8,500). **Solid wall insulation** - £2,000 from Islington. **Rain water harvesting and grey water systems** have been announced for this financial year but details not yet finalised.

(NOTE: you can opt for either hot water or PV Islington Grants but not for both. It is considered that hot water panels may be better but PV may be preferable in the long term as modern washing machines and other appliances heat their own water. **More details are available from Islington Green Living Centre (0800) 953 1221).**

Swifts in our area: Every year we hear the squealing of the arriving swifts. Cheverton, Gresley, Gladsmuir, Whitehall Park, Harberton and Dresden - we all see them wheeling in huge circles high above London telling us Spring has arrived. Incredibly elegant, unmistakable with their long curved wings and dashing flight - they make one of the longest avian journeys to get here from the tropics. Except - fewer and fewer are coming. No one knows for sure why this is happening but the usual suspect is loss of places to nest. So WHPARA will offer a social evening sometime early in 2010 when you can meet neighbours and find out about how to encourage swifts to nest in your garden. More details will be posted on our website. You could also contact the Ecology Centre on 0207 527 4374 for a free Wildlife Gardening Pack.

WHPARA website: wwwwhat's the latest?

WHPARA is close to finishing an upgrade of our website - to make it clearer, easier to use and to offer more local information and services on it which we hope you will find useful. We have a small team working on it with a website designer and we will keep you informed of progress. We will soon be able to give you a launch date. (**Romy Jenkins and David Seton Website Sub-Committee**).

LOCAL SERVICES/TRADESPEOPLE DIRECTORY: Are you often asked “Do you know a good electrician” or “Is there someone who is a reliable painter/decorator?” Here’s an opportunity to be a good neighbour as well as help us to compile a list of known contacts. For instance, if over the years you have used a local gardener, trusted babysitter, cleaner, cake decorator, entertainer for children’s parties etc. we would like to hear from you. Send entries to: **Kay Clarke, email: kay@kay12,fsnet.co.uk**. When completed this information will be available on our website.