

SPRING 2009 NEWSLETTER

Dear Member,

I am sure you have seen the first snowdrops braving the snow, wind and rain to announce that a new cycle of life will begin again. Soon crocuses and daffodils will be gracing our gardens and parks.

We begin our year with one less member – our hardworking Membership Secretary, Josette Atack has resigned due to ill-health and relocation.

Anyone interested in filling the gap?

But apart from this, there is good news below of some of our plans for the New Year and hoping you will join us.

Gloria Chandra
Chair (WHPARA)

We closed 2008 with our Annual Fund Raising Concert in support of the Winter Night Shelter for the Homeless held at St. Andrew's Church in early December. It was such an enjoyable occasion that it prompted Malcolm Jack to take pen to paper and write the following:

"Some Christmas Spice was promised to WHPARA members and friends by the talented Baroque players Eclipse at a Concert on Friday 5 December at St. Andrew's Church. The packed pews were not disappointed. We got an exhilarating cocktail of Spanish music from an early 14th century dance piece to a swirling tarantella of the late 17th century. A dazzling display of flamenco dancing added to the excitement in what was altogether an uplifting and hugely enjoyable performance. It really was an occasion not to be missed. Well done Eclipse we want you again!"

... Watch this space for another treat this year!

ANNOUNCING ANOTHER EVENT - WINE TASTING

The date for your diary is Friday, 13th March at St. Andrew's Church, Whitehall Park. A great chance to sample a variety of fine wines from exclusive vineyards from across the world – Germany, France, Italy and the New World. An evening for the discerning to taste and replenish stocks. Entrance Fee: £5 payable at the door. Invite your friends for an evening with a difference. Put an end to the Winter blues!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, 30TH APRIL

COME AT 8pm to St. Andrew's Church, Whitehall Park. Hear the news about proposals for the Archway Town Centre and the wider area. What are YOUR VIEWS and what improvements or developments do you want to see happening NOW not LATER. Anna Woodward, Archway Town Centre Manager will be our Guest Speaker. Kate Calvert from Better Archway Forum will also be on hand. New residents are welcomed to join us.

AND Our Family Fun Day will be on Saturday, 11th July

PLANNING AND CONSERVATION: Just a cautionary note for anyone about to leap ahead with rebuilding or alterations to property. A reminder that the Council has strict regulations governing such matters. As residents in a Conservation Area we have to observe guidelines laid down by law or risk unnecessary expense in case of infringement. If you need help or advice Islington Council has published a leaflet which is also available on our website www.whpara.org.uk and click on the Islington Council's link. We repeat this information for the benefit of some householders who may not be aware of existing restrictions.

WEBSITE: As an organisation dedicated to serving the community and to ensure that we are in touch with our members at all levels both socially as well as communicating local information we are working to provide easy access by the best means possible.

To this purpose, we have had a Newsletter and a website for some time but we decided before Christmas that we could do more to make our website accessible and interesting. I was asked to seek professional feedback on its design and the resultant recommendations were scrutinised by committee members, David Seton, Eva Lloyd and myself and approved by the whole committee on 20 November 2008.

We are now working with a consultant to implement the changes which have the following aims:

- To make the website simpler, clearer and more consistent in style but to retain the general structure and content categories.
- To make the homepage more attractive and add more information about what WHPARA is all about.
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- To increase the amount of information about local matters of concern such as updates on Archway planning, Islington's development plans or Police news.
- To reduce the number of separate pages and get rid of overlap in content.
- To keep the Newsletter as a separate publication and remove it as an attachment to the website.

We will keep you informed on progress and in the meantime you can continue to access the old site. Once updated, I hope you will let us know what you think of it.

Romy Jenkins
Secretary, WHPARA
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