

WERA newsletter

Warner Estate Residents Association June 2009



TWO YEARS AGO WERA AGREED TO SUPPORT THE FOUNDING STATEMENT OF THE SUSTAINABLE HARINGEY NETWORK. THIS YEAR VARIOUS GREEN EVENTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE.

ECO PARK VISIT

On a bitterly cold day in January about thirty WERA members visited the London Waste Eco Park (www.londonwaste.co.uk), previously known as the Edmonton Incinerator, on the North Circular Road. Suitably attired in hi-vis yellow jackets and hard hats we were taken on a tour of the site. We saw how the “residual waste” collected in our wheelie bins is burnt in massive incinerators and converted into electricity which supplies 60,000 homes. We saw how our green garden waste is combined with our food waste to produce compost, which is supplied to local parks and allotments.

In spite of being told that the tour would last 90 minutes it was four hours after we arrived before we left the site. The tour organiser said that “the wide

ranging questions from your group did make time management extremely challenging”. WERA members’ stamina is amazing.

ECO MEETING

Over fifty people attended WERA’s Eco meeting in November to hear a number of speakers talk about sustainability issues. Zoe Robertson, the Council’s Environmental Resources Manager, returned for her second visit to a WERA AGM to give a very helpful update on recycling services. Ruth Schamroth, an architect active in the Sustainable Haringey Homes group, talked about making our homes more energy efficient – a vital task given that 27 per cent of UK emissions comes from homes.

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PRICE RISE!

Last year’s Annual General Meeting agreed to increase the WERA annual subscription from £2 per household to £3. Our subscriptions have remained at £2 since WERA was founded thirteen years ago. Over the years our activities and our costs have increased. We hope residents will be happy to pay this. Please give your subscription to your road representative (see page 4).

WERA

Since 1996, **WERA** has represented the residents of nine roads at the bottom of Muswell Hill: Redston Road, Danvers Road, Warner Road, Park Avenue North, Priory Avenue, Linzee Road, Clovelly Road, Baden Road and Priory Road (north side).

WERA acts on behalf of residents and monitors local issues, including those concerning Alexandra Palace and Park, road safety and planning developments which affect the area and our properties.

WERA membership
288 households

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WERA website
www.wera-n8.co.uk



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There was a lot of interest in a presentation by the Reverend Joachim Kreusel from the Moravian church. He described how the church in its centenary year succeeded in raising £43,000 funding from the Low Carbon Building Programme and EDF Energy for solar panels to be installed on the south-facing church hall roof. These are now producing electricity. The meeting also heard a presentation from Matthew Walker, a Priory Avenue resident, on his "Earthpill" project, which measures the electricity consumption of various appliances (www.earthpill.com).

Discussion revealed that lots of local residents are already doing what they can to reduce their carbon footprint and live in a more eco-friendly way. Thanks to Just Natural, our local organic shop, for providing the special priced (and delicious) wine for this event.

WERA ECO TEAM

Nine local households have set up a WERA Eco team as part of a borough-wide Global Action Plan project. The aim is to reduce energy consumption and waste production. Over four months the group have had wide ranging

discussions, benefiting from some members' special expertise. For instance, Simon Kaplinsky of Redston Road gave a presentation about his research on European Eco-towns (www.praparchitects.co.uk, press R&D). Adrian and Robyn Thomas of Warner Road have worked out their total carbon emissions in 2007 and 2008. The good news is that they succeeded in reducing their power consumption by installing a new and more efficient condensing boiler and better insulation. The bad news – for all of us – is that they discovered that the occasional flight (even short haul) is the single biggest factor contributing to their carbon footprint.

PRIORY COMMON BULBS AND APPLE TREES

WERA has continued its work to improve Priory Common, the open strip of land running along the north side of Priory Road. For the fourth year running, members planted daffodils. WERA also used some of the funds in the Paul Eddington Memorial Fund to purchase two apple trees, which have been planted on the west side of Redston Road.

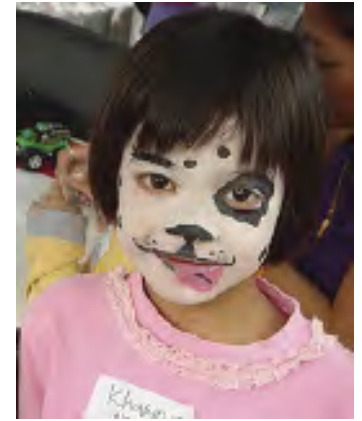
ALEXANDRA PALACE – NO CHANGE

Usually Alexandra Palace makes the front page of WERA newsletters but this year there is little to report. Recriminations continue over the Firoka saga and Mr Kassam has threatened to sue the palace for £6 million. The trustees are looking for other developers. WERA representatives on the Statutory Advisory and the Consultative committees continue to monitor the situation.

WERA YAHOO GROUP AND WEBSITE

The WERA Yahoo group now has 110 members. Most of the messages are about local trades people and services but there has been discussion of some serious and some less serious topics. If anyone would like more information about the Yahoo group or would like to know how to join, email the WERA Secretary on jrosser@lineone.net. Anyone can access the messages by going to the WERA website and pressing "communications". The website also has WERA committee minutes, reports, photos, a history of the area and useful contacts.

Local activities 2008/09



TOP LEFT Ursula Maestranzi cutting tape to open Redston Road party

Street parties

For many years Warner Road has organised an annual street party; but in 2008 both Redston Road and Danvers Road decided to follow suit.

It was not a good year for open-air events but Redston Road managed to hold its party on a hot, sunny day in June. Danvers Road chose a day in August and, although the organisers found themselves putting up the stalls and stands in a cold, wet mist, as the hour of the party arrived the sun came out and they also had a successful day (although the party was curtailed by torrential rain

in the late afternoon). Warner Road's street party ended early because of typical 2008 "summer weather" but the street is still planning to hold another party this year.

Congratulations to everyone who organised the street parties: they are much appreciated. It is wonderful to see the streets without traffic and almost clear of parked cars so people, including young children, can wander wherever they like. The street parties also result in many residents meeting neighbours for the first time.

Alexandra Park gets Green Flag

Sixty members at the 2008 WERA AGM heard a talk by Mark Evison, the new Alexandra Park Manager.

Mark outlined the £3.5 million worth of improvements that

have been made to the park over the past five years. Members welcomed the improvements and after the meeting WERA was delighted to hear that the park had been awarded a Green Flag.

Priory Common trees

Following some complaints about these trees from Priory Road residents, WERA sent a questionnaire to all 46 residents whose houses front Priory Common.

Thirteen residents responded and of these six had serious concerns: two about the trees blocking the light; two about leaves blocking their gutters; one about television reception and one about subsidence fears. Generally people valued the handsome, mature plane and chestnut trees which provide protection from the

noise and view of Priory Road traffic, although acknowledging that they block the light. As one resident commented, "I obviously do not want the trees cut down as I love them so much but to have them pruned and the height reduced would be heavenly." WERA sent the results of the survey to the Council Arboriculturist and asked about the possibility of thinning or pruning some of the trees whilst protecting their shape. There will be a site visit and further discussion about this.

Path across Redston Fields

A resolution in support of a path across Redston Fields was carried by a large majority at the 2008 WERA AGM although a few local residents are opposed in principle and others have concerns about issues such as the surface, route and entrance.

Since then both the Advisory and the Consultative

Committees have considered the path proposal. A costed plan for the path is being prepared and a site meeting will be held to consider the exact route. Funding remains an issue and the path could be constructed in two stages. It still needs to get the approval of the Trust Board and would then need planning permission.

The new health centre

Nine years after the closure of Hornsey Central Hospital, the new Hornsey Central Neighbourhood Centre (previously called a "polyclinic") in Park Road is due to open in July.

The £12.75 million development is funded by Haringey NHS, the Department of Health's community hospital fund and Elevate, a private equity company. Elevate made an initial investment of £10m and has leased the building back for the next 30 years taking responsibility for its maintenance.

There has been much controversy over the project

and there is still uncertainty over what services will be in the 45,000 square metres of the new three-storey building. Questions include what impact the new centre will have on local GPs and pharmacists, what other services will be in the centre and whether there will be private sector health providers.

James Slater, Director of Performance and Primary Care at NHS Haringey, will be at the WERA Annual General Meeting to talk about the new centre. The AGM will be at 8pm on Monday 6th July in the Moravian church hall, Priory Road.

WERA book clubs

Two years ago Isabel Manley of Warner Road set up a local book club from contacts made through WERA.

That group continues to meet monthly. Last year there was so much demand that Judy Woolford also of Warner Road agreed to set up a second group. Her group is now full and also meets monthly. Isabel's group has recently had a vacancy so if anyone is interested in joining they should contact her at i_manley@msn.com. Otherwise it might be time to set up a third book club.

Crime

WERA is a Neighbourhood Watch group and regularly receives information about local crime from both the Muswell Hill and Hornsey Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

Members have used the WERA Yahoo group to pass on information about suspicious behaviour. It is important that local residents report instances of crime to the police. The phone numbers of the SNTs are 020 8721 2675 (Muswell Hill) and 020 8721 2905 (Hornsey). Obviously in an emergency you should phone 999.

Traffic

WERA takes up local traffic matters.

We managed to get the firm that parked its removal vehicles on Priory Road to move them away from road junctions so they wouldn't block the view of drivers turning out of Danvers and Warner Roads. There are still concerns about the Muswell Hill/Park Road/Priory Road junction which we are discussing with council officers. Among other things, we have made sure that the council keeps the plant growth in the planter box trimmed so that drivers making a right turn from Priory Road to go up Alexandra Palace Way have sight of traffic coming down Muswell Hill.

WERA COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Chair

David Liebeck
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Secretary

Joyce Rosser
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Alexandra Palace and Park Statutory Advisory Committee

David Liebeck and
Harry Aspden

Alexandra Palace and Park Consultative Committee

Dick Hudson

Alexandra Palace and Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee

Antonia Denford

Website and Yahoo group manager

Dick Hudson

ROAD REPRESENTATIVES

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