

WERA newsletter

Warner Estate Residents Association June 2016

Twenty years of WERA

The birth of WERA was due to the committee of the campaigning group Save the Environment of the Palace and Park (STEPP) pointing out that we were the only area adjacent to Alexandra Park without representation on the APP Statutory Advisory Committee. Jack Noutch was already involved in STEPP. Two STEPP committee members suggested he approach David Liebeck to be chair. There had been an earlier residents association called Priory RA but that collapsed about 1980, so it was decided to call the new group the Warner Estate RA and restrict it to the roads on the north side of Priory Road.

WERA's first AGM got off to a flying start as McDonald's had applied for a 90-seat restaurant with drive-through facilities at the bottom of Alexandra Palace Way (where the Safestore Centre now is). A representative of No to McDonald's (NOMAC) spoke at the AGM. Everyone was encouraged to sign a petition objecting to the planning application and to attend the various protest meetings. Fortunately the proposal never went ahead.



What might have been

Another plan surfaced at the same time – to develop the Hornsey Waterworks and Depot site (on Hornsey High Street) with housing and a Sainsbury's superstore. Chris Warburton from Hornsey Information Planning Exchange (HIPE) attended our AGM to speak against the plan. In spite of a massive campaign and a public inquiry, the development received planning permission. But it did not go ahead. Subsequently, New River Village was built.

Over the years, other plans were discussed for the depot site but it wasn't until 2014 that a new plan to build 483 housing units and a large Sainsbury's got planning permission. Opposition has been largely based on concerns about the huge increase in traffic that will result from the superstore, but there was also a desire to retain the historic 1930s public baths frontage. However the development is underway. The developers made two concessions to heritage: calling it 'Smithfield Square' after the Smithfield engineering works which used to be in Cross Lane; and retaining the Hornsey Borough doorway to the baths building in a new location.



Public baths doorway in its new location

Over the past twenty years, WERA has dealt with all sorts of issues, many relating to Alexandra Palace and the park, but also concerning areas such as council services, transport, traffic and local history. We had a collection for a memorial bench for Paul Eddington, the actor who used to live in our patch, and collections for two popular local postmen. We are one of the most successful and active residents associations in Haringey with a large membership.

Our thanks go to David Liebeck, the WERA chair who only stepped down in 2015, to Jack Noutch, who continues to be the very active WERA Park Avenue North road representative, and to all the others who set up WERA so long ago.

Local activities 2015/16



Priory Common

Throughout the winter, construction was underway on a 'rainmeadow' on Priory Common. This is one of three local 'sustainable urban drainage systems' (SuDS) www.thames21.org.uk/LovetheLea. There is a Raingarden in front of Dale Court and an extensive Rainpark in Rectory Gardens. Children from St Mary's Primary School will be helping to look after the Rainpark. There will be an official 'opening' in the summer.

In the meantime, Priory Common Orchard at the bottom of Redston Road continues to do well, with a regular group of volunteers working there on Wednesday mornings and occasionally on other days. Visitors come

all the time – to wander around, sit around the table, read the many informative notices or just enjoy the peace and quiet. It is surprising how many people from across the borough and elsewhere have noticed and been impressed by our community garden.

We invite people to help themselves to fruit, vegetables, herbs and flowers. We leave all our tools there and amazingly nothing has been stolen or damaged. Each year, we hold a 'Big Lunch' on the orchard (part of the nationwide celebration of open spaces). Priory Common Orchard has its own website: bit.ly/PCOrchard and now, as you can see below, we have our own poem.

A Peaceful Place in Hornsey

*Come down to the garden, the garden, which one?
The garden communal that's for everyone
The place with no fences, no locks and no gate
Come help us to dig or just contemplate.*

*It's free to roam into whenever you please
There're lots of nice pathways and plenty of bees
It's next to the bus stop on Priory Road
At the corner with Redston and look here's a load
Of compost and hay bales all to be spread
To start a new section, prepare a new bed.*

*The council committee was pleased to agree
When we requested for us to be free
To plant up and garden the natural way
Here where was just grassland behind the nursery.*

*This garden is special and precious to us
The people of Hornsey can come on the bus
From all of the Borough from far, near and wide
To hoe and to harvest or just be outside.*

by Jacky Jenkins 2015

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 which affect the area, including those concerning Alexandra Palace and Park, road safety, and planning development proposals.

WERA is affiliated to the Haringey Federation of Residents Associations and to Sustainable Haringey.

WERA contact

Secretary Joyce Rosser
020 8347 7684
joyce.rosser13@gmail.com

WERA website

www.wera-n8.co.uk

WERA MEMBERSHIP

The WERA subscription is £3 per household per year. We hope you will be happy to pay your 2016/17 subscription. Please give your subscription to your road representative (see insert).

WERA COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Chair

Jim Jenks
2 Clovelly Road
020 8340 3130

Secretary

Joyce Rosser
46 Redston Road
020 8347 7684

Alexandra Palace and Park Statutory Advisory Committee

Jim Jenks

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
dick@ling.ucl.ac.uk

ROAD REPRESENTATIVES

Clovelly Road and Baden Road

Jim and Ros Jenks
2 Clovelly Road
020 8340 3130

Danvers Road

Jeff Probst
Upper Flat, 2 Danvers Road
020 8341 9517

Linzee Road

Alison Walker
14 Linzee Road
020 8348 4133

Park Avenue North

Jack Noutch
54 Park Avenue North
020 8340 6377

Priory Avenue

Robert Giles
2 Priory Avenue
020 8340 0913

Priory Road (north side)

Vacancy

Redston Road

Ursula Maestranzi
88 Redston Road
020 8340 2668

Warner Road

Adrian and Robyn Thomas
30 Warner Road
020 8348 4897

Traffic and parking issues

Last year, concerns were raised about the speed of traffic on Priory Road especially at its western end. It was felt that the present road layout (from the traffic lights at the bottom of Muswell Hill) encourages drivers to speed. WERA set up a traffic group of residents and local councillors to look at possible traffic-calming proposals for this stretch of road.

In November and December, the council conducted a consultation on proposed safety improvements to the Muswell Hill/Park Road junction, but this did not cover Priory Road.

Later in December the council set up cameras on Priory Road in order to determine the volume and speed of traffic on this road from its junction with Muswell Hill to Park Avenue North. The survey was also to establish pedestrian footfall and crossing locations. They said that analysis of the results 'will help in the identification of measures to improve road safety for all road users especially pedestrians and cyclists.' We are awaiting the council's proposals.

Another local traffic issue is parking. There continue to be complaints on the WERA Yahoo email group about parking difficulties in WERA roads. Some of this is clearly due to displacement from Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs), which have now spread to Hillfield Avenue and Barrington Road. For the first time some residents have raised the possibility of a CPZ in our roads (while others are fiercely opposed).

Haringey's Mayor

Jennifer Mann, a WERA resident, has been Mayor of Haringey for the past year, with her husband Steve Mann (also a councillor) as her consort.



Steve and Jennifer Mann

Local activities 2015/16

WERA as a community

WERA activities help to bring local residents closer together. So too does the WERA Yahoo email group, which now has over 300 members and is a lively forum for exchanging information about recommended tradespeople, unwanted goods and local events and concerns. To join the Yahoo email group, email Dick Hudson at dick@ling.ucl.ac.uk. The archive of past messages can be accessed on <http://tinyurl.com/wera-messages>. Our thanks to Dick for all the work he does in managing the Yahoo group and our website.

On New Year's Day, 24 people joined a WERA walk called 'Four estates and a pub', which goes through the Warner, Nightingale Lane, Campsbourne and New River estates, ending up at the refurbished Three Compasses pub for refreshments. And every two months we have been holding an informal 'Get-together' at this pub.



The Three Compasses pub was designed by the architect John Farrer, who laid out the Warner Estate and built many of our houses

Before Christmas, a group of local residents organised a benefit for refugees in the Moravian church hall which raised over £1300 (half went to the British Red Cross and half to Student Action for Refugees). And each summer, there are several successful street parties in our patch. Thanks to everyone for making our community such a great place to live.

OUR MP AND LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Catherine West MP

catherine.west.mp@parliament.uk

Hornsey ward councillors

Adam Jogee

Jennifer Mann

Elin Weston

Muswell Hill ward councillors

Mark Blake

Pippa Connor

Gail Engert

Write to councillors at:

River Park House, 225 High Road, N22 8HQ

or email using firstname.lastname@haringey.gov.uk

Haringey Council

www.haringey.gov.uk

020 8489 0000

To report problems – dumped rubbish, graffiti, etc., email frontline@haringey.gov.uk

Metropolitan Police

If a crime is currently taking place and you are in immediate danger, dial 999. If you wish to contact the Metropolitan Police Service and it is not an emergency, call the non-emergency number, 101.

Our local Safer Neighbourhood Teams

Hornsey SNT

020 8721 2905

<http://content.met.police.uk/Team/Haringey/Hornsey>

Muswell Hill SNT

020 8721 2765

content.met.police.uk/Borough/Haringey

ADVANCE NOTICE

WERA Annual General Meeting

8PM TUESDAY 19TH JULY

MORAVIAN CHURCH, PRIORY ROAD, N8

Speaker: Joyce Rosser will give a short presentation on the River Moselle

Followed by AGM business