



HIGHBURY COMMUNITY NEWS

FROM THE HIGHBURY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Good news for Finsbury Park



With the opening of the Park Theatre (2013), the John Jones Arts Centre (June 2014), and the start of the

City North development (2013), alongside TfL's proposed station improvements, and Thameslink services coming to Finsbury Park from 2018, the area is increasingly being seen as one of opportunity.

Islington Council recently consulted on its , and councillors from the three boroughs (Hackney, Islington and Haringey) are now meeting regularly - the Finsbury Park Regeneration Board, chaired by Highbury West Councillor, Richard Greening.

Councillor Greening stated in the Islington Gazette in December 2014 that, because Islington Council does not have a lot of money, it is hoped that cash for environmental and other improvements in the area will come from planning gain. This is money that developers agree to spend in return for planning permissions - like the £220million development of two 21 storey City North twin towers*, which will begin to be built in 2015. In 2016, University of the Arts students will be moving into this new accommodation scheme (which includes 475 student bedrooms).

What do all these plans mean for local people and businesses?

To discuss how we ensure that these developments do regenerate the area to benefit all, the Finsbury Park Trust (formerly FinFuture) is holding a major **Regeneration Conference on Saturday 21 February 2015** from 1- 5 pm at the Rowan's Bowling Club., Stroud Green Road. The Trust is also setting up a **Friends of Finsbury Park Station Group**, and the Highbury Community Association is aiming to be involved in both these initiatives. We will report back on developments in the next Highbury Community News edition.

Talal Karim, Executive Director of the Finsbury Park Trust, explained that the aim of these initiatives is to promote urban regeneration - working across the three boroughs of Hackney, Haringey and Islington.



John Jones 2015

The Trust is a registered charity, and company limited by guarantee, and has a membership comprising

community and voluntary groups, traders' associations and individuals living in the designated area**.

New members are welcome: if you are interested in joining the Trust, you need to complete a membership form for approval by the Board of Trustees. Members elect this Board (Management Committee) - which consists of three councillors, three residents, three community/voluntary groups and three traders' associations - one from each of the three boroughs. There is currently a vacancy on the Board for an Islington resident representative, if you are interested in being considered.

Please contact the Trust if you wish to attend the conference and/or become a member. (Tel: 020 7561 5510; or write to .

The Trust's address is: FinSpace, 225-229 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4 2DA)
DIANE BURRIDGE

* Section 4.3.2 of the Draft Finsbury Park Development Framework Supplementary Planning Document states that the two 21 storey towers granted planning consent as part of the City North scheme were approved under 'now out-dated and superseded planning policies', and that tall buildings in this area are no longer supported under current policy.

** The Finsbury Park Trust's designated area of benefit is roughly bounded by Hornsey Road on the west, Green Lanes on the east, the Gospel Oak to Barking Line to the north, and the southern boundary is around Drayton Park station, the old Arsenal ground, along Gillespie Road to the corner of Green Lanes and Mount Grove Road.



The HCA represents over 900 residents and businesses on all aspects of living and working in Highbury, Lower Holloway and Finsbury Park.

Membership is free. Members receive bi-monthly newsletters like this one. New members will receive the newsletter by email (unless you don't have email).

To join or talk to us about anything Highbury-related, please email hcanews@hotmail.com

The opinions expressed in HCN are not necessarily those of the Highbury Community Association and its committee members.

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Come to the HCA AGM and Party!

Saturday 18 April at 7:00pm
Christ Church, Highbury Grove, N5

Wine, food, raffle and auction!

What has the HCA been doing in the last year?
What would you like the HCA to do?

Speaker: TBC

Join the party! Wine, food, stimulating discussion and much more.

Can you bring a dish of food? If so, please email beth.moir@gmail.com with 'AGM food' in the subject line.

New committee members urgently needed. If interested please email hcanews@hotmail.com, with 'committee member' as the header.

Calling all budding editors!



The HCA needs you! The current editor of the Highbury Community News (this newsletter) will be moving on in the summer and so the HCA requires a new editor. Could this be you? Do you have an eye for an interesting story or interview; are you motivated to make the community the best that it can be? Then you may be ideally suited to the job!

It is an unpaid, voluntary role and works closely with the HCA's newsletter designer to produce about five issues a year filled with local content. Articles are provided by both committee members and wider members of the HCA who have felt the urge to take to their computers and put words down.

The readership is just shy of 1000 members. The time commitment to the role of editor is not vast, but being organised is an advantage! If you are interested in taking up the position in August and would like more information from the present editor or to ask any questions please email hcanews@hotmail.com or get in touch via Twitter - @HighburyCA.

Ladbroke House

Planning application has been submitted, ref P2014/5132/FUL, although comments have now closed (12 Feb 2015). Notice was posted on the HCA website (www.highburycommunity.org). As the application states it is for: Demolition of existing building and redevelopment of the site incorporating part facade retention and basement excavation to provide 81 units of self-contained assisted living accommodation with facilities including a communal restaurant, wellness centre/spa, guest accommodation, staff accommodation, staff offices, roof terraces, plant and storage areas, basement car parking and storage in a part six, part seven storey building (plus lower ground and basement levels) with an internal courtyard.

Pegasus Life, the developer, invited us for a community consultation sometime in December 2014, but did not come back to us with possible dates for a meeting, as requested.

Shadows of the past



The London Metropolitan Archive's current exhibition on London Gothic shows a selection of its prints and drawings of London's remaining buildings from the period 1150-1500 AD which was dominated by this style of architecture. It

also shows many print and photographic examples of the London buildings of the gothic revival beginning in the seventeenth century and characteristic of Victorian architecture, including churches, public buildings, houses and terraces.

The gothic imagination is also on display, in a rich assortment of the horrors and curiosities of London life, most notably in the material on Bram Stoker, a business manager in the 1890s for the great actor Sir Henry Irving at the Lyceum Theatre, who apparently inspired Stoker's portrait of Dracula. There is also remarkably a pencil outline of the feet of Boris Karloff, cast as the vampire in the Hollywood film of Dracula in 1931. The outline was made by a salesman from Peal and Co. Ltd, the bespoke shoe manufacturers of London from 1791 to 1965, who made Karloff's shoes. Karloff was born William Henry Pratt, in Honor Oak, South East London, and grew up in Enfield.



Neo-gothic architecture in Aberdeen Park.
photo: St. Saviours Church/The Florence Trust.

London's ghosts are represented in the exhibition by the story of Ann Nailor, an orphan apprenticed to a milliner, who was beaten so badly for running away that she died of her injuries. Her spirit is said to roam the end of the platform at Farringdon Station, after the last train has passed through. Her body was found in a grate leading to the Fleet River which passes under this area.

Our current image of London may be powerfully influenced by its wealth and growth, its twenty-first century IT industry, and its reputation for culture and style. This exhibition asks us to reflect as well on darker gothic themes in London life. We are shown poverty and crime in the nineteenth century London prints of Gustave Dore. In two series of eighteenth



Gothic surroundings of Abney Park cemetery, Stoke Newington

century prints by Hogarth, the London artist whose death occurred 250 years ago, themes of cruelty, corruption and exploitation are explored. The historic city portrayed here provides us with beauty and ornament, as well as visions of the darker side.

London Gothic is a free exhibition at the London Metropolitan Archives until 30 April 2015. 40 Northampton Road, London EC1R 0HB, open Mondays 9.30am-4.45pm, and Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9.30am-7.30pm.

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/lma.

SARAH POTTER



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Goodbye Legard

When I started writing this article I had just come across a hidden and wonderful place in Highbury, doing some great work that I thought people would like to hear about. But almost as soon as I'd found out about it, I learnt that was going.

Here I'm talking about Legard Works, the joinery and wood workshop which is part of the Peter Bedford housing association, that provides supportive housing for vulnerable individuals and people who have suffered social isolation. Located in the heart of Highbury for years but tucked away behind an unassuming entrance gate on the bend of Legard Road, that's where you'll find it- but only for a couple more months.

I visited for the first time on a crisp morning in 2014. Concealed from the road, down a passage way, you enter a large covered inner courtyard. There, against the background hum of machines cutting wood, Jonathan the woodwork instructor pointed out the other buildings facing into the courtyard which include a designated arts space, kitchen/café, and a small elevated bed for growing vegetables.

Rolling back the large wooden door to the joinery, with the smell of cut wood and the sight and atmosphere of half a dozen people absorbed in their project-cutting, sanding and gluing- forgotten childhood memories from the long-closed Ormond Road woodworks, in N19, also now sadly gone, came rushing back. Plain



planks of wood were in the process of being transformed into hand crafted items of furniture just like the finished framed mirrors, bookstands, cabinets and candleholders which stood proudly displayed on countertops around the edges of the room. These, a participant called Roy told me proudly, would soon be for sale in Outpost, and walking me over to an impeccably crafted cabinet pointed "this one's mine" and opened its door.

The creative activities and courses on the same site - from joinery and painting to food growing and cookery - are important because they help residents to build their independence and confidence and learn employment skills. Talking round a table with residents Roy, Barbara and other staff in the courtyard over a cup of steaming hot chocolate and a biscuit, I could see that Peter Bedford's vision works. Barbara tells me how much attending the joinery courses has increased her confidence and Roy, an enthusiastic joiner, painter and gardener, describes the course he's saving for in green woodworking, and the gardening that he's been doing on the rooftop garden of Queen Elizabeth Hall.

What really struck me on my visit was the positivity and tranquillity that filled the atmosphere and how integrated Peter Bedford's philosophy is within their initiatives, which was why I was particularly disappointed to find out that, like many other spaces, this one would be closing its doors in the neighbourhood. With the site sold to a housing developer, the relocation to new premises will happen gradually with the objective to bring together services onto one site and expand the opportunities they have already built up. This is a sad goodbye from the Highbury, but long may this work continue. LUCY BRADLEY

Ward partnership meetings on the horizon (Feb-May '15)

Highbury East

5 March 2015, 7-9pm at Birchmore Hall, Highbury Quadrant,
N5 2UA. All welcome.

Keep an eye on the council website for the agenda



Outpost is Peter Bedford's shop, community hub and gallery space at 254 Holloway Road, which is stocked with the furniture, textiles, homeware and gifts made by Peter Bedford's residents and participants. The shop is one of the ways the Association provides opportunities to get work experience and retail qualifications. You can find details of Outpost's exhibitions, events and workshops at www.facebook.com/outpostN7



Bright Old Things

The familiar trimmed topiary of Highbury resident and 'cutting-hedge architect' Tim Bushe is currently on display in a prominent West-end window. A new take on their annual campaign Bright Young Things, which showcases up-and-coming young creatives, this year Selfridges is featuring fourteen talented individuals who 'embraced a new vocation later in life'. Each artist has created their



Tim in front of his window with, Naomi, his guide dog in training



Tennis ball plunger, Selfridges atrium

own vibrant and unique window, and Tim is joined by a venerable crew including a navy aircraft engineer turned sculptor, an actress-furniture designer, a teaching assistant- now textile designer, and a chartered accountant-come artist. Tim's adventure creating living sculptures started five years ago, first with elephants in Finsbury Park and soon followed by other loveable animals and a steam train. Rather than taking payments for his creations Tim sends donations from shapely-hedge-owners to the Hft charity, which supports people with learning difficulties. Catch Tim's hedges in Selfridges atrium and window, and gifts bearing his cutting hedge architect sketch in their pop-up shop, until end Feb and support his public works in aid of Hft justgiving.com/tim-bushe/

Good food for thought

Since 2011, Sustain, the alliance for better food and farming, has published their annual Good Food for London report, with rankings of local authorities for their performance and support for important good food initiatives.

In December 2014, for the fourth consecutive year, Islington topped the Good Food for London with an overall score of 10. As well as maintaining pole position, the borough has consistently improved its performance over and above the preceding year.

The categories cover a broad spectrum, including community food growing, high quality school food, schools and local authority canteens buying ethical food - such as Fairtrade products, cage-free eggs, and sustainable fish, and helping food outlets serve healthier food, as well as points awarded for living wage employers.

You can feast your eyes on the league table and download a copy of the report at www.sustainweb.org/londonfoodlink/goodfoodforlondon2014/

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Highbury Heritage - help save our iconic landmark



Photo: Jonathan Brewster

The landmark spire of Christ Church Highbury is at risk - and we are hoping local residents will come up with ideas for a Heritage visitor centre that will be part of a bid for funding to repair it.

Steeplejacks inspecting the spire have found disintegrating stonework and failing metal joints which need to be replaced. Small pieces of falling masonry are a potential danger and the area around the foot of the bell tower

has been cordoned off. The pinnacle on the very top, which was replaced during the refurbishment of the church in the 1980s, seems to be in good condition, but the Kentish rag stone supporting it dates back to 1848, when the church was originally built.

Jonathan Brewster, Vicar of Christ Church, explains "We have secured an initial grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to undertake more detailed survey work. The

next stage will be to apply for a grant of an estimated £200,000 for the actual repair work. But our chances of success will be much higher if we can involve the local community in designing an associated heritage project."

We need the support of all who are interested in saving our spire - an iconic Highbury landmark - from demolition. So the team are canvassing for thoughts, ideas and suggestions about the heritage and history of Highbury, how it might best be captured, and how it could best be displayed in a new 'Highbury Heritage' visitor centre on the ground floor

of the bell tower, below the restored spire. We envisage creating a valuable resource for our local area.

We hope you will be interested and welcome your support for this important Highbury project. Please take a few minutes to complete our questionnaire and let us have your views, <http://bit.ly/highbury-heritage>

JOHN GILBERT