



HIGHBURY COMMUNITY NEWS

FROM THE HIGHBURY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Ali Carmichael February 1956 - April 2012



Ali first became involved in community matters for Highbury in 1997. We held a public meeting in the Aubert Court meeting-room when we first heard that Arsenal was thinking of expanding its old stadium by the compulsory purchase and destruction of houses on the east side of Highbury Hill. We leafleted the area, and invited Ali and Robert, Ali's husband, to come to that first meeting. From that starting point emerged Highbury Community Association (HCA) and two massive campaigns - first to stop the expansion of the old stadium and then to fight such a very inner city location for the new stadium. Robert and Ali - and

especially Ali - took on the central organising role and increasingly worked full time on the issues. Ali's home, in particular the study, became the cockpit for action. She produced and edited the HCA news, built up the documentation needed for writing effective letters to local and national newspapers, arranged interviews with journalists, and became a legal expert as well. She kept a roster of people able and willing to speak on or write about different issues, used any interns who came her way to dig out information in the Islington Council archives, recruited all those who wrote letters about Arsenal's plans to the Council (and whose letters were on public display) to the HCA and if possible to more active roles as well. She was skilful at spreading the tasks out, so that no one person gave up under the weight of the volunteering burden. She had first discovered her campaigning skills through mounting a campaign in the area of Scotland where her parents lived, to defend the environment there against inappropriate land-use. HCA won the first Arsenal campaign: the plan to expand the existing stadium was abandoned in 1999. But it lost the second, (though it took its case to the High Court) and the new stadium opened

in 2006. Ali and the committee had kept HCA growing and taking on new roles - not only monitoring Arsenal's tendency to slide out of some of its S104 commitments (the conditions under which it had been granted permission to build at the new site) but also developing a social role, so that the association became a place for meeting local people. Robert fell ill in 2005. Ali spent a year devotedly and unsparingly watching over his care in hospital, and when he died, she felt a large chapter of her life was over and decided that, to move on, she needed to develop new and different interests. She resigned from HCA, did a course in spiritual healing, and began to take over the management of some of the building activity that had been Robert's responsibility. Just as she seemed to have rebuilt her life, she was diagnosed, early in 2011, with ovarian cancer. She struggled manfully through that year, upbeat as always. In February 2012 she celebrated her birthday with a wonderful party organised by her friend Leon. The whole house and garden was magically lit and decorated, with nightlights and a brazier and blankets on the terrace

continued on page 4



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.

Annual General Meeting round up

The HCA held its AGM on 21 April 2012 at Christ church, Highbury Grove, with 70 members attending. David Fenton started with formal business and welcomed everyone, reporting on work undertaken by the Committee on behalf of members in



the past year. This included: responding to planning applications (eg the Arsenal Towers, Arsenal coach parking); involvement in traffic management issues such as the Drayton Park lorry ban and pressing for after crossings; and efforts to protect the open

spaces in Highbury Fields. Thanks were given to David (who did not stand for re-election) for his work for the HCA in the past seven years. We now have 961 members and the aim is to reach 1,000. The Treasurer noted if we had more members who received the newsletter by email; savings could be made on the paper and delivery effort. In the informal business, Tony Miller gave a eulogy for Alison Carmichael and noted that Alison, and her husband Robert Scott, had been actively involved with the HCA since 1997. If it had not been for them, we might not all be here and Highbury would be a much poorer place in community spirit. Peter Eversden, Chair of the London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies gave a presentation and explained the London Forum has 130 member societies including the HCA, and Highbury Fields Association - so Highbury is well represented! Peter talked about the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) - a new overall framework for England, published recently with immediate effect. Regarding 'design' the NPPF states that good design can now be demanded. The definition of 'sustainability' is more comprehensive and includes social and environmental, as well as economic considerations. Peter also discussed the Localism Act. Councils will now have more power over business rates, and planning enforcement rules have been increased. Local people can take over local assets (the right to enter competitive tendering); they have a right to challenge the delivery of local services only if they can deliver these themselves; and they have the right to veto any excessive council tax increases. He spoke about neighbourhood planning.

Twenty one people can decide to produce a plan for their area, if approved by the council. Police, health interests, businesses and residents must be involved. The HCA's chosen charity to support this AGM was Freightliners Farm. Liz McAlister (Farm Manager) and Sue Jandy, chair of the Farm



committee explained how the farm started in 1973 near King's Cross and is now based in Paradise Park. Activities include education and community involvement with a large volunteering programme involving people aged from nine to 70 years. The 2011 AGM supported the Highbury Roundhouse and Tony Miller, Roundhouse chair, stated the £500 raised will help to protect the facilities. The planning brief for this was approved in February 2012 and the committee has a deadline of January 2013 to raise funds for the redevelopment.

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Lorry Restrictions on Drayton Park

Whilst it is most welcome that new width restrictions have been put into Drayton Park to discourage lorries cutting through from Holloway Road to Blackstock Road and Finsbury Park, several residents have voiced some concerns. Firstly, some local businesses are parking their vehicles near the restrictions, blocking the inside lanes designed for smaller traffic and cyclists - which could force these people out into the middle of the road. And apparently, Drayton Park forms part of the second busiest cycle route in Islington, so this is a concern. Secondly, for pedestrians it can be more difficult now to cross the road. Before the installation of the new system, pedestrians were able to cross from the station to the council building opposite in relative safety with the aid of a central reservation and a pavement extension on either side.

Now, with the crossing on this wide road nearer the sharp curve, there is a restricted view especially when crossing from the station side. The Highbury Community Association (HCA) and local residents voiced these concerns at the Highbury West Ward meeting, held 22 May 2012, chaired by Cllr Theresa Debono, and attended by transport officers. It was agreed that these matters will be investigated to consider improvements. As Drayton Park is planned to be part of the new Connect 2 thoroughfare, from Finsbury Park to Highbury Fields, we are keen to work together to improve conditions for cyclists and pedestrians, as well as to restrict lorry movements.

PAT TUSON

Royal College of Physicians Open Day

The Royal College of Physicians is holding an open day on Saturday 7 July 2012 from 11am - 4pm. This event is public and free to attend. There will be architectural tours of the college's grounds, which includes the award winning headquarters - a creation of British architect Sir Denys Lasdun. There will also be tours of the medicinal garden, which was featured in Gardeners Question Time last year, as well as interactive exhibitions and lectures in healthy living, sports & exercise medicine in advance of the start of the 2012 Olympics. There will be a number of lectures including, 'Alcohol - how much is too much?' given by Professor Sir Ian Gilmore MD FRCP and 'Winning gold - medicine and the Olympic games' given by Dr Richard Budgett OBE FRCP, Chief medical officer for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games. There will be an exhibition of rare early anatomy books entitled 'Curious anatomys: an extraordinary story of dissection and discovery'. The exhibition will reveal the hidden history of the Royal College of Physicians' anatomical tables - some of the oldest human anatomical specimens in the world.

For more information visit open.day@rcplondon.ac.uk or telephone: 020 3075 1237/1527.



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references on request.

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AGM PRIZES AND THANK YOUS

The HCA's AGM raffle and auction were held in aid of Freightliners Farm and was very successful this year, so many thanks to all members who took part.

The list of prizes included:

- Two West End Theatre Tickets
- CDs of popular music, opera, and classical music
- A Crystal d'Arques Vase
- Bottles of whisky, House wine (with a meal), Pinot Noir, organic juice
- A travel shoe care kit
- A doormat with heart and rose design from To Be Established
- A sharing a steak meal for two
- Haircut and blow dry
- The opportunity to adopt an Animal Certificate from Freightliners Farm
- Mounted and framed pastel pictures by local artist Derek Whitehead

For the lucky winner of the Encore Theatre Tickets:

Encore Tickets: The prize of two top price tickets to see either "Chicago", "Dreamboats and Petticoats" or "We Will Rock You" on Monday to Thursday evening (excluding school holidays). Please redeem this offer by 30th June by emailing Richard Woolliss RWoolliss@encoretickets.co.uk quoting: "Highbury Community Association Charity Prize".

Many thanks go to the following for their kind donations of prizes for both the raffle and auction: Mother Earth, Encore Travel Ltd, Barnaby's, EMI Classics, Roger Wright, local artist Derek Whitehead, San Daniele del Friuli restaurant, Five Boys Health Food Store, Sarah Potter, Marian Fielding, Highbury Barn Tavern, To Be Established, The Master Cobbler, Diane Burrige, and Woodland Hardware. And of course

Thanks to all the members who came to the AGM, we look forward to seeing you again next year, if not before.

Ali Carmichael

continued from page 1

so that people could sit outside. She and many of her friends danced until dawn. She knew how terribly ill she was, but said afterwards, "Well, it's nice actually to be at your own wake!" She died on April 7th. Those who worked with her on the Arsenal campaigns will never forget her energy, and her ability to lift the spirits of those working alongside her. It was this great capacity for optimism that characterised the way she dealt with her cancer, too. She lived, actively and joyfully, to the very last.
GILL SHEPHERD

St Paul's Church, Stoke Newington

St Paul's Church in West Hackney is looking for a new part-time Church Administrator. St Paul's is an Anglican Church in Dalston/Stoke Newington. It is home to a diverse worshipping community and a growing number of social and recreational neighbourhood projects. They also play host to the popular Stoke Newington Farmers' Market. For further information contact niall.weir@mac.com or visit www.stpaulswesthackney.org

Advertising in Highbury Fields

Recently, there seems to be a spate of advertising, large and small, tied to railings. This has spread as a litter of fly-posting throughout the park. While organisers are expected to promote their events at the Fields, there is no guidance so far on how to do that. The new park manager, Bhupesh Thapa will be planning how to contain notices and if you have a concern over this - or other matters on the Fields - feel free to email Bhupesh.Thapa@islington.gov.uk. HCA would like to see only essential notices within the park; do contact us (hcanews@hotmail.com) if you have suggestions.
ROBIN HULL

Animal Aid and Advice Bookshop

(Reg. Charity no. 1039640)

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Wide range of second-hand fiction and non-fiction books, sheet music, poetry and plays

Donations welcome

Volunteers needed for shop and animal welfare work

The HCA uses the adverts in this newsletter to fund the printing, paper and postal costs of those members who choose to receive hardcopies through their letter boxes.

The hosting of adverts in the newsletter has the added benefit of encouraging readers, members, and the wider local community to support the local shops and amenities.

Drayton Park Sidings

You may remember last July Drayton Park Station Sidings, a designated site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation Grade 1 (SINC) in Islington, was raised to the ground by Network Rail contractors. The reason given for this devastation was that the area was needed as an escape route in the event of an emergency. After a long and frustrating correspondence with Network Rail they agreed to a meeting which took place at the town hall last September chaired by the council leader. At the meeting representatives of Network Rail apologised for their actions and agreed with Islington Council's Greenspace Team to manage the sidings for the benefit of wildlife whilst also allowing a clear access path for passengers should a site evacuation be necessary. Since then we have watched the site regenerate safe in the knowledge that this destruction would not happen again. Sadly this was not to

last for there is a new and bigger threat. Network Rail has told Islington Council that the site is of no ecological value and is rejecting its SINC status. This might be something to do with the fact that they are proposing to build an "operational electrical sub-station on the site". Islington Council has contested Network Rail's views and are actively looking for money to do a survey of the site to prove its benefits for biodiversity. The current survey is over 20 years old. Once they have secured the funding though, there's still the question of whether Network Rail will grant them access to the site. The matter is to go before a government Planning Inspector later this year. If you have any comments to make in support of the SINC status, please send them to Freepost, RSEA-CUHA-YYAS, Planning Policy, Islington Council, 222 Upper Street, London, N1 1XR; or by email to: LDF@islington.gov.uk by 22 of June 2012. These comments will be forwarded by the council to the Planning Inspector when the council's document is submitted.
DIANE BURRIDGE

Increased Popularity of Highbury Fields

It won't have escaped your notice if you walk through Highbury Fields that the park is used by more people for more of the day than ever before. The 'venue' that it has become attracts all sorts of groups for activities such as sports and games, exercise classes and commercial events that, because of its central location, well-served by transport, are succeeding in filling the park. So far, so good and it is an achievement that it all works as well as it does. There is a 'but': such popularity only works well if all the users of the space, individuals, organisations and, indeed, the local council, take care not to abuse such a precious amenity. There is the odd exercise group using ghetto-blasters oblivious to the volume's impact on other users. Highbury Fields, as always, attracts lots of people simply wishing to sit and enjoy the good weather. This includes BBQs and, unlike last year when many kept their fires on stands and didn't damage the grass, there is already a rash of small, blackened rectangles spreading over the fields despite so few days of good weather to date. The Highbury Fields Forum discussed these issues recently. If there is an exercise class using loud music, Glenn Branch, the manager of the Aquaterra Fitness Centre at the bottom of the park, will aim to ease the situation. He is not directly responsible for those exercise groups in the Fields which Aquaterra promotes, but will contact those who are if you email the details of loud music to him (glenn.branch@aquaterra.org). The next Highbury Fields Forum meeting on 18 July will address the events themselves and the advertising issue.
ROBIN HULL

Survival of the bumblebee

The presence of large, furry, colourful bumblebees gathering nectar and pollen in our gardens is a sure sign of spring and summer. But, as those at the Islington Gardeners Spring Lecture learnt in March, bumblebees are threatened by a loss of habitat and harmful pesticides in the countryside. Of the 25 British bumblebee species, three are extinct, two are in danger, and others may become so without taking rapid action. What bumblebees need to survive is a supply of pollen and nectar through the spring and summer, which our gardens can provide if we plant a succession and variety of cottage garden flowers. This enables the different species of bumblebee with their different length tongues to thrive. Double flowers, F1 hybrids and pansies, petunias and busy lizzies are unsuitable, but bluebells, foxgloves, lavender, sage, thyme and scabious can help to provide pollen and nectar throughout the season. Caroline Washington also noted in her lecture that bumblebees need nesting space, and recommended information available from the Bumblebee Conservation Trust www.bumblebeeconservationtrust.co.uk
SARAH POTTER

Quiz night!

At the Islington ecology centre (Drayton Park N5)

Friday 29 June 2012 7:00 - 9:45pm
(Quiz will start promptly at 7:15pm)

- ★ Admission £5 per person or £25 for a table of 6
- ★ Get together with your family and friends or come along and join a team (max. 6 people per team)
 - ★ Hot food available to pre-order £5 per head
 - ★ Wine, beer and soft drinks available to purchase on the night
- ★ Quiz Master: Emma Dixon
- ★ Fabulous raffle prizes plus prizes for the winning team

Please support this worthwhile course.

Please note: tables/food must be booked in advance.
Contact sjandy@candi.ac.uk to reserve a table or for more information.

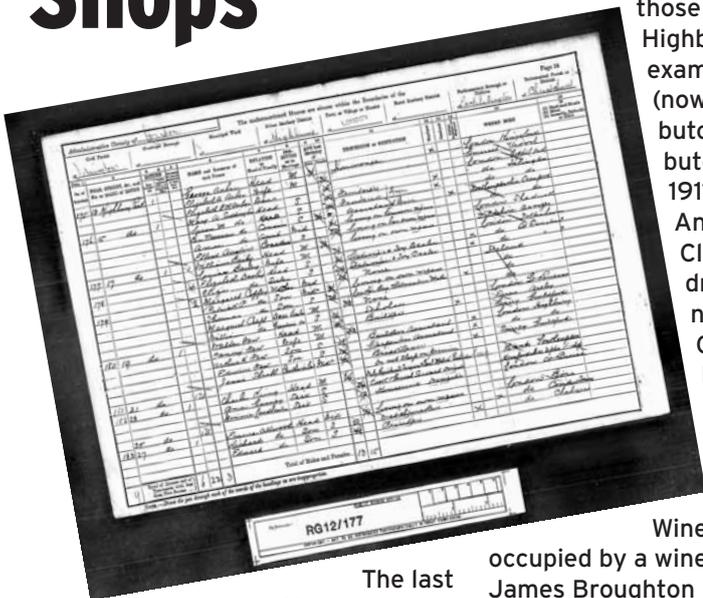
The event is organised by The Friends of Gillespie Park and is a fund-raising event for the 2012 Gillespie Park festival.

A History of Highbury Shops

Islington on 9 November 1936. He lived and worked there with his wife Elizabeth who was originally from Yeovil. They had a daughter, also named Elizabeth. I was interested to see what other the other Highbury shops were over 100 years ago. I dug into the census records to see who lived in the buildings in 1891, 1901 and 1911. Some of the shops were astonishingly similar businesses to those that are in Highbury Barn now. For example Number 7 (now F Godfrey, the butchers) was also a butchers' in 1891 and 1911. Number 6 (now Andrews Dry Cleaners) housed a draper's shop and number 3 (now Greggs) was a bakery and confectioners in 1891, and still in use for that trade in 1911.

stationer and toy shop in 1891 and was another stationer and booksellers at number 32, which is now Launderama. Number 24 (Cleanways dry cleaners) was home to different ham and beef dealers in 1891 and 1901. Number 26 is, of course, Highbury Barn pub, and its proprietors were Thomas Wright in 1891, Frederick Price in 1901, and Joseph Pritchard and Ernest Kennett in 1911. The parade today has some curious numbering that didn't make research easy; number 1 is now split between Barnaby's hairdressers, To Be Established, Dido Sandwich Bar and the Highbury Barn Barber Shop. In 1891, number 1 was a greengrocers, and later a boot repairers. I was unable to find a definite trade for number 18 (China Taste), although in 1891 it was inhabited by Henry Rosenblum, an India rubber garment maker. It would be fascinating to know what other trades these shops were used for in those days and, where different, the years between 1911 and 2012.

SIMON JARY



The last issue of Highbury Community News reported an old shop front was revealed, during the shop-fitting of Meek and Wild fishmongers, bearing the name 'Geo. Auber. Furnishing Ironmonger'. Looking over census records showed that George Auber had an ironmongers shop at 13 Highbury Park from the 1880s until about 1911 (census records are made public after 100 years so I couldn't check 1921 and beyond). George was born in 1860 in Kingsland, and died in

Wine Rack was also occupied by a wine merchant called James Broughton in 1901, and in 1911 it was an off licence, run by Alfred Barnes. Raymonds Newsagents at number 9 was a stationer, run by Thomas Hunt in 1891 and was owned by stationer and newspaper trader, Alfred Jones in 1911. Number 14 (now a pharmacy) was also a chemists from 1891-1911, and likely after. Iznik is today the restaurant at number 19, and it was a Coffee Dining Rooms in 1901 and 1911. Number 16 (today Rendezvous Café) was William Gibbs' bookshop. Number 17 (now the Health Food and Drug Store) was a

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