

# HIGHBURY COMMUNITY NEWS

Issue No 4 December 1997

## JOIN THE CROWD AT ISLINGTON TOWN HALL

Gather at 7pm outside Town Hall, Upper St.  
on Thursday December 11th  
*Meeting starts at 7.30pm*

Hear what Councillors and the community have to say about the Arsenal Stadium draft planning brief. *Will the draft become the brief?*  
Ask your neighbours and local friends to join you - all opinions count and should be heard!

### CHRISTMAS PARTY

Have you booked your ticket for the Xmas party? Don't miss it! It is on Friday December 5th, 7pm to 9.30pm at the Ecology Centre, corner Gillespie Rd & Drayton Park. Help keep the Association running and enjoy yourself too! Ring Annie on 0171 704 1597 to reserve tickets or send cheques (payable to "Highbury Community Association") to Annie Waring, 167 Highbury Hill or Yvonne Watts, 25 Gillespie Rd. Tickets £7.50p each.

### LOCAL SHOPS HELP HCA XMAS PARTY

Lots of small and larger things have been donated by local traders from the Barn and Blackstock Rd as well as by HCA members - champagne, ceramics, artists' works, shop tokens, a radio, Xmas tree, clothing, childrens books etc. Annie Waring, who has been arranging the party said "We've got plenty of wine and small snacks, but best of all are the many great things which have been donated for the raffle and auction. *I'm really grateful to shopkeepers for being so generous.*" Ring Annie to book your ticket on 0171 704 1597

### A BIGGER Highbury STADIUM?

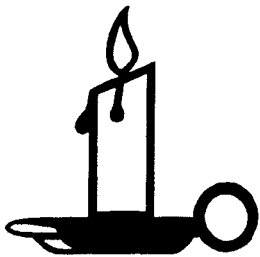
THIS ISSUE affects everyone living and working over a large area, not just in Highbury Hill. Why else did a huge number of people from many different streets in the area turn up to the Council's Public Meeting on 13th November? Ian Crawley, Assistant Director from the Council, has written to HCA acknowledging that the 450+ audience was probably the biggest group ever to come to a public meeting about a planning matter. This is not just about the completely unacceptable idea of people's homes being lost to help further big business. It is also about the regular major disruption, loss of trade and environmental costs to both residents and local businesses over a very wide area. The balance between community and Club has varied over the years. For years the Club was truly a local one. Now 80% of season ticket holders live more than 5 miles from the Stadium

and more than half come in by car. Living and working in a controlled parking zone has its own serious complications and living and working outside is worse. Extending the parking scheme has moved the disruption further out, to blight other areas. Maybe more season ticket holders could use public transport. Would they? We are now waking up to the fact that, over the last few years, football has moved upmarket and is now big business, controlled by a few very rich people. An investment company has been buying Arsenal shares recently. Because Sky TV drives the scheduling, Sunday and weekday matches are more frequent and often take people by surprise. Arsenal's dilemma is that it seems to have outgrown the area but it wants to keep up with its competitors. The HCA intends to continue to learn more about the problems and possible solutions.

Welcome to the 25 new members who have signed up recently. If you know of friends or neighbours who want to receive HCA News, please ask them to ring Roger Wright on 0171 354 1413

# WHY NO CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AT THE BARN?

Danny Michelson, of La Fromagerie, has tried another year running to get Christmas street lights for Highbury Barn shopping parade. The there would be the budget to But the contractor the had to put up the to around £4000. *disappointed but feel have tried to meet us ing to match pound* the deadline the Council gave us was too short for traders to raise any money. Danny means to try again next year.



Council had hoped enough money in decorate the Barn. Council uses has cost from £2,500 Danny said "I am that the Council half way by offer-for pound" Sadly,

## THREE BOROUGHES UNITE IN COMMON CAUSE

Margot Sreberny, Chair of Finsbury Park Area Working Party, is delighted that the work of 14 years has finally resulted in a newly announced joint initiative between Islington, Haringey and Hackney Councils. The Finsbury Park area has many problems of dereliction and deprivation and is unique in its situation which borders the 3 boroughs. *"We've been fighting for co-operation between elected*

*members and Council officers representing the 3 boroughs. I'm very optimistic that good will come of it"* said Margot. Various local voluntary resident groups have also become involved which is a positive move. Margot Sreberny, who also chairs Finsbury Park Action Group and advises HCA, was recently awarded an MBE for her work in the Finsbury Park area.

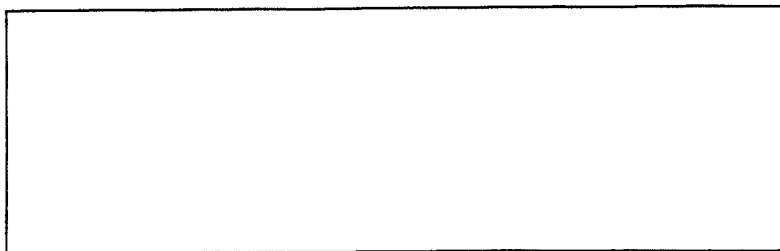
### HIGHBURY HILL CLOCK TOWER RESTORED

The restoration of the Clock Tower erected for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 is complete. The Clock, with its beautiful gold detail and gold weather vane and chimes has emerged from the scaffolding and looks stunning in a new maroon colour. The restoration was made possible by the National Heritage Fund, Heritage Trust for London, Highbury Fields Association & Hugh Grover Associates.. *Official opening December 8th!*



**THANK YOU** to all the valiant leafletters who have been delivering HCA News, Christmas Party invites, Traffic Leaflets x 3800 and Special Edition HCA News x 4500 on a regular basis. Too many to list this month but you know who you are - thanks to everyone!

**THANK YOU** also to the people who have donated cash and cheques over the last few months. Very many thanks to all.



# CHATTERTON ROAD GROUP

Chatterton Road residents have met in Pizzadelique Restaurant to discuss issues such as crime prevention and rubbish dumping close by. The group is an informal one, mainly keen to encourage a spirit of community, in an already friendly road. The HCA has offered to help with the issues they have raised and has been invited to the group's next meeting on December 14th in Pizzadelique, whose owner is very supportive. If you live in Chatterton Road you are very welcome. Meeting starts at 5pm.

## WANTED!

Occasional temporary accommodation for up to 2 weeks B & B or half board for Central European business people/ students needing hospitality and a chance to practise English. Terms negotiable. Contact Francis Radice on 0171 226 9422.

## OFFERED!

Experienced Builder/Handyman for works small or large. Ring Pat O'Sullivan on 0171 490 8512.

Have you a cat, dog, rabbit or fish that needs looking after when you go away? Ring Pat Tuson on 0171 609 5093 Home Visits or boarding!

## FUNDS NEEDED URGENTLY TO KEEP HCA GOING!

We are very low on funds, please can you help? All donations are very welcome. Cheques payable to "Highbury Community Association" to HCA Treasurer, 111 Highbury Hill, N5. To join the fundraising group ring Lee on 0171 354 8641

### Highbury Community Association

The HCA represents residents and businesses, on all aspects of living and working in Highbury, Stoke Newington and Finsbury Park.