

Join the HCA online at highburycommunity.org and receive this newsletter by email

HCA NEW YEAR SOCIAL EVENING!

Friday 31 January 2020 - 6:30PM to 9:00PM - 22 Elfort Road N5

You are invited to enjoy food and drink - and chat with your neighbours!

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS AND BEAT THE WINTER BLUES!

HIGHBURY COMMUNITY NEWS

highburycommunity.org | [@HighburyCA](https://twitter.com/HighburyCA) | facebook.com/highburycommunity

Islington people's rights - a new exhibition at Islington Museum



By SARAH POTTER

Until 21 January 2020, there is an exhibition at Islington Museum to mark the fiftieth anniversary of Islington People's Rights, the organisation which since 1969 has provided local people with independent advice on claiming welfare benefits and tackling debt. It began as a branch of the Child Poverty

Action Group, which responded to the high levels of child poverty at that time, acquiring an office, a full-time organiser, a benefits handbook, and a regular stall in Chapel Market. It currently answers 9000 enquiries a year, supports people at a hundred tribunals a year on welfare issues, and helps people to claim a million pounds in benefit income to which they are entitled.

The exhibition traces the changes in the welfare system enacted in response to unemployment in the 1970s and 1990s, and the more recent impact of Universal Credit. It is a very striking finding underlined in the exhibition that 38% of children in Islington currently grow up in poverty, and the gap between rich and poor in our borough is the seventh largest among the 32 London boroughs. The second very striking aspect of Islington People's Rights' work on tackling poverty is the extent to which disability and mental health issues lie at the heart of its current cases. Over 70% of IPR clients have a disability and a similar proportion have mental health issues, and yet have to navigate a very complex welfare system. This is an eye-opening exhibition.

Islington Museum is at 245 St. John Street, EC1V 4NB. Open Monday-Saturday, 10am-5pm, closed Wednesday and Sunday. Admission is free.

SAVE THE DATE!
2020 AGM
 CHRIST CHURCH, N5
SAT 28 MARCH
7PM

Exercise on Highbury Fields

By GILL SHEPHERD and HELEN ASH

Highbury Fields is a much-valued resource for many people in the neighbourhood who use it in very diverse ways. There have been some complaints over the last year or so that personal trainers and their clients are using tree-branches on the fields, and some of the benches, as part of their exercise routines. They can be aggressive if remonstrated with.

Use of tree branches risks damaging the trees, which are much too precious for this, and while some uses of benches may be inoffensive, uses which involve putting muddy feet on them, or which deter others from sitting on them, are not. Most of these benches were given in memory of someone who loved to sit and relax on Highbury Fields and the benches should mainly be used for exactly that purpose.

Much conflict could be avoided if an area with exercise machines and/or exercise bars (example pictured on right) could be provided. Use of benches and trees could then be forbidden with a ready alternative in place. Islington Council has no immediate funds for this, but Highbury Fields Association and Highbury Community Association have had very preliminary discussions on possible ways forward. Watch this space!



Not taken on Highbury Fields!



Park in Sydenham, South London

Seasons and Blossoms

We are a health food shop in Highbury selling a large range of fresh local and organic fruit and vegetables and health foods

Seasonal produce from local farms, organic dairy & delicatessen, artisan bread, eco-friendly cleaning products and organic pet food

Deliveries available

92 Highbury Park N5 2XE - 020 7159 4867

Advertise in HCA News

The HCA relies on advertising income to enable us to print 5 editions a year.

The HCA charges a very reasonable £50 per advert for three issues, and £20 per advert for a single issue. We will include one charity advert per edition free of charge.

Email hcanews@hotmail.com for details

WOODLAND HARDWARE

HARDWARE FOR THE HOME AND GARDEN
KEYS CUT - LOCKS SUPPLIED
HOUSEWARES - LIGHT BULBS - TOOLS
PLUMBING & ELECTRICAL GOODS
COAL, LOGS & KINDLING
CANDLES, CHRISTMAS LIGHTS & DECORATIONS

20 Highbury Park N5 2AB - Tel: 020 7354 5029
Email: hwoodla@aol.com
www.woodlandhardware.com
- ALSO OPEN ON SUNDAYS -

Local restaurant review: La Muse, Holloway Road

By DAVID FENTON

La Muse is a small restaurant at 119 Holloway Road (N7 8LT) serving traditional French cuisine. One of its attractions other than the food is that in the summer (and now in the winter) you can eat outdoors (pictured below) in a secret garden. The menu is small but you get quality and originality even in the simplest of dishes.

The chef and owner is Akif, trained in classical French cuisine at The Ivy, the Savoy Grill and the Wolseley. Akif is very passionate about French cooking and he brings his expertise to La Muse. Akif is present at the restaurant almost every day, where you can see him prepare all the lovely dishes in the open kitchen.

The menu changes frequently and there is a good selection of starters including Rillette of Mackerel, Cucumber Ring filled with beetroot, pomegranate and goat's cheese or a vegetarian soup. For mains there is a choice of Baked Hake, Roasted Lamb Rump or Flat Iron Steak. The French Fries are particularly good. Desserts include Tarte Tatin and Crème Brulée and of course there is cheese. There is a good selection of wine – a glass of Picpoul goes down well. You need to book (020 7609 5397).




CLAY TIME Clay Time Pottery Place C.I.C.
Drop into the community pottery studio in Finsbury Park

Hand build from wet clay – throw on our wheels
Paint one of our ceramic items – join one of our courses
Available for parties
Buy a pottery course as a present this Christmas!

Adults and children welcome!

Tue–Fri 12–6pm, Sat–Sun 10am–6pm (& evening courses)

168 Blackstock Road N5 1HA – 020 3441 8787

info@claytime.london – facebook.com/claytimelondon
www.claytime.london

Volunteers required!

Here at Marie Curie, we are looking for volunteers to spare **2 hours** of their time to help with our Christmas collections and Great Daffodil Appeal in March 2020

Marie Curie Nurses work day and night looking after people with a terminal illness who want to be cared for at home in their final days

One hour of nursing care in someone's home costs £20 - it costs £5,500 to keep our nursing service running across the UK for one hour

For more information on getting involved, please call Mark on 020 7853 3411 or email mark.drain@mariecurie.org.uk

‘London is a forest’ - a new book on discovering London’s trees and woods

By SARAH POTTER

Paul Wood, author of “London’s Street Trees”, has just published a new book, “London is a Forest” (Quadrille, 2019, £12). The reader is guided along six forest trails which crisscross London, and on the way discovers veteran and unusual trees, ancient woodland, heaths, fine views, wildlife and the details of the people who have influenced the city’s treescape. The first trail, which leads from High Barnet to the Barbican, passes through Islington, and Paul Wood highlights a number of noteworthy trees in our area along the way.

He finds the 200 plane trees of Highbury Fields ‘packed with interest’ and ‘surprisingly different’ (p. 44), since they were probably bought from a number of suppliers in 1886, and thus consist of different cultivars of the same species, with different shaped leaves and differing trunks. At more than 130 years old, they are in their prime. The nearby arboretum at Highbury Corner contains ‘an intriguing array of trees’ (p. 43) planted in the 1960s, including maples, a southern beech from Chile, and conifers from across the globe. They were planted in part as a mem-



orial to those who died in the area as a result of the rocket attack there in June 1944, and in part to test the trees’ ability to flourish in city conditions.

Continuing down to the Angel a notable urban example of one of Britain’s rarest native trees, the black poplar, can be seen from the Pentonville Road, on the corner of Rodney Street. Only about 7,000 of these trees now exist, normally growing on banks of rivers and floodplains. This tree was probably planted when its present site in Joseph Grimaldi Park was a churchyard and burial ground. Joseph Grimaldi, the great comedian and clown, was buried here in 1837.

Another notable tree in the Angel area can be found down Amwell Street on the other side of the Pentonville Road. It may date from

1828, and is listed as one of the 61 Great Trees of London. After the great storm of 1981, the charity Trees for Cities drew up a list of 41 veteran trees to help preserve them. Twenty more trees were added in 2008, among them the Amwell Fig. It is very large spreading tree, just outside the historic Clerkenwell Parochial School. It may have been planted when the school was built, to illustrate bible stories for the pupils.

This trail finishes at the Barbican, at Mendelssohn’s Tree, just near the bridge from the Barbican to the tube station. The composer sat under this tree to write when it grew in Burnham Beeches in Buckinghamshire, a site acquired and preserved for the nation by the Corporation of London in 1888. In 1990, after 500 years, the tree fell, and its stump has been preserved at the Barbican. One more significant tree from a book written to engage our interest in nature in London and help preserve it.

FIVE BOYS
Drug &
Health Food Store

17Highbury Park N5 1QJ
020 7359 3623
8:30am to 8pm Monday to Saturday

Organic & Non-Organic - Food - Baby Products
Toiletries - Household Products - Lottery Tickets
Aromatherapy - Homeopathy
Herbal Remedies - Eco Friendly Products
Organic Fresh Fruit and Vegetables
Body Building Products

Help us keep our membership list up to date.
Let us know if you have moved, or would rather receive the newsletter by email

Please contact us at hcaneews@hotmail.com

Highbury Community Association response to consultation on major events in Finsbury Park in 2020

By DIANE BURRIDGE

Haringey Council’s statements are set out below, with summary Highbury Community Association responses.

Change 1 statement: *A reduction, in comparison with 2019, in the number of major events across the events season for 2020, which will result in three weeks’ shorter occupancy period of build and break days in the park (2020: 24 days/ 2019: 44 days).*

HCA response: This is still over four weeks’ disturbance in the Park. Nearly 30% of the Park will be closed off with high walls in June and July when people enjoy a park most.

Change 2 statement: *Less chance of damage occurring to the grass and paths, and emissions from event vehicles cut by two thirds– one load in / one load out rather than three.*

HCA response: This statement does not take the traffic movement and pollution in the Park during events into account.

Change 3 statement: *Removes events that take place in the wetter months thus reducing the potential for damage.*

HCA response: Summer months

can be wet too, as they were in 2019, causing much damage to grass from July to October 2019. There are photographs to show this damage.


Change 4 statement: *With Steel Yard not going ahead, the park would be free of events during the May half-term school holiday.*

HCA response: This does not compensate for the summer months when Finsbury Park is largely lost to local people. The Park is essential for mental and physical well-being and Government policy promotes physical activity. School exams (GCSE and A levels) continue to the end of June. The noise is distracting for students, particularly for those living in the high-rise flats which constitute much nearby housing.

Conclusion: It is true that some disturbances were mitigated in part in 2019, (after many complaints to Islington Council) and were funded mainly by the event organisers. Roads were closed, buses diverted, and there was an increase in noise monitoring, community enforcement patrols, complaints lines, and cleaning of streets. Review meetings were held before and during the events with local officers and local people.


But the impact of major events in Finsbury Park still lasts for months, with green areas spoiled, litter, and damage to trees, benches, and pavements. The HCA will continue to work to mitigate the effects of these major events. Email us at hcanews@hotmail.com for more info.

Event	Dates 2020	Daily capacity	Licence Holder / Organiser
On site: from 16 June			
Community Festival weekend	26 – 28 June (3 days)	45,000	Live Nation / Festival Republic
Wireless Festival weekend	3 – 5 July (3 days)	45,000	
TBC	10 OR 11 July (1 day)	45,000	
Off site: by 17 July			



Don't miss the tax deadline.

For friendly, expert help with your self assessment, speak to us today on **020 7354 2661** or visit www.taxassist.co.uk/islington-NS



TaxAssist Accountants
The Accountancy and Tax Service for Small Business

Offices in Islington • Camden • Marylebone

THE Highbury Barn

A gastro pub & restaurant with a theatre kitchen & fully stocked bar

Book now for your Christmas lunch and parties, menus available now

Great a la carte menu to choose from for lunch and dinner, along with fine ales, beer and wine

Quiz night every Monday at 7:30 pm

Twitter: [@highburybarnpub](#) - Facebook / [The Highbury Barn Pub](#)
www.thehighburybarnpub.co.uk - Tel: 020 7226 2383

Highbury Corner scorecard

By TIM SAYER, Battledean Road

The 'new' Highbury Corner was opened by the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, and Transport for London some weeks ago. How do we score it at this point?

Outside the station

- The pedestrianised area outside the station looks good, but the open part of the 'arboretum' is being used as a dumping ground for bedding and litter.
- Anti-terrorist bollards were installed on the south side, which meant ripping up quite a lot of the newly laid York stone. The same is due to happen outside the station, hopefully more competently.
- As feared, bikes do cut across the pedestrian area.

The effect on local roads

- Long westbound queues build up in St Paul's Road,

with drivers ignoring the bus lane, (which *can be used* some of the time).

- Canonbury Road is regularly at a standstill, with many northbound vehicles waiting to turn right into St Paul's Road, creating heavy pollution for the children at the school.
- Traffic can jam the Holloway Road as far back as Drayton Park
- Traffic backing up Highbury Place can be very dangerous, but it will improve when the top end of Highbury Crescent reopens. (Hopefully in conjunction with width and weight restrictions in Baalbec Road and Fieldway Crescent).
- The Liverpool Road is being used heavily by northbound drivers trying to avoid Highbury Corner entirely
- The SCOOT system to regulate traffic has reduced some congestion, but is not the great panacea promised by the Council and TfL
- Displaced-traffic monitoring on local roads probably won't begin for a year

Pedestrians

- Pedestrian crossing times are better outside the station, but the crossing outside the 'Hen and Chickens' is badly designed and dangerous.
- The junction by Barclay's Bank is also dangerous: the lights are set back too far into Highbury Place and pedestrians don't realise vehicles are heading for them

Cyclists

For cyclists, it's mixed: sometimes they can zoom around the Corner, others they're halted at every set of lights, breathing in traffic fumes.

Overall

I'd give the scheme barely five marks out of ten. The nine million pounds it cost would have been better spent on improving Highbury Station. Readers will continue to debate the scheme on the Next-door website: let's see what it looks like in a year's time.

Cinnamon Village Café
Blackstock Road
Café - Bakery - Ice Cream Shop
Local honey
 produced by Cinnamon Village
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our customers!
 WiFi
 7 days a week, 8am to 6pm
 Tel: 020 7226 8777
 160-162 Blackstock Road, London N5 1HA

MAC McCABER
 Handyman and window-cleaner
 mobile: 07960 037485
mac.buildingdecorating@gmail.com
 Hard-working and trustworthy, living locally
 Recommended by several HCA members -
 references on request
 I do painting, decorating, small electrical and
 plumbing jobs and gardening at £120 a day pro rata
 I also clean windows inside and out - £80-90 for a
 3-storey Victorian house

Go digital!

The HCA is encouraging readers of the paper edition to switch to email delivery. It saves paper and our printing costs.

To make the switch, please contact us at hcanews@hotmail.com

The impact of the Gillespie Road no-entry trial

By DIANE BURRIDGE

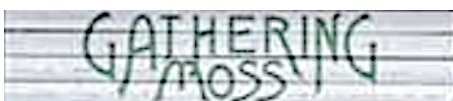
Since the Gillespie Road Point No-Entry Trial commenced on 18 February 2019, most traffic has been displaced onto Avenell Road and Aubert Park.

During the morning peak period in Avenell Road, traffic has nearly doubled: from 84 cars/hour to 150, and during the evening peak period, traffic has increased from 89 to 133 cars/hour. In Aubert Park, increases have been from 323 to 386 cars/hour in the morning, and from 346 to 397 in the evening. The total increase in the morning for these two roads is nearly equal to the reduction of traffic along Gillespie Road (of 139 cars/hour- from 309 cars/hour to 170). There is a noticeable worsening of pollution levels at the top of Avenell Road, as cars wait to turn right into Aubert Park.

The good news is that, during the evening peak period, overall traffic has reduced in the area by 39 cars/hour, and the introduction of the 3.5 Tonnes Lorry Ban Trial will hopefully reduce traffic further. Worryingly, the average traffic speed along Avenell Road during the morning and the evening peak periods is 19.1 miles per hour. This is the average, and so we need to know how often speed limits are exceeded. In Gillespie Road the average speed is 12.4 miles/hour.

Islington Council promised a report from additional surveys by the end of October 2019, and we trust that the results of these will be disseminated shortly. We all want a reduction of rat-running in the area, not merely the displacement of traffic from one road to others.

If you are interested in this (and other local) matters, the next meeting of the Highbury West Ward Partnership will be held Wednesday 29th January 2020, from 7.30- 9pm, at Stephen's Ink Community Centre, Tannington Terrace, Gillespie Road.



Gathering Moss Furniture & Gifts

193 Blackstock Road N5 2LL
Open Friday, Saturday & Sunday in December
11am to 6pm

Makers of lovely affordable unique furniture
using Reclaimed Wood

Made to the size of design you want
Lovely Fairtrade Christmas gifts

Twitter: @GM_Furniture - Tel: 07762 641 847
www.gatheringmoss.co.uk

BOURNE'S FISHMONGERS

Bourne's Fishmongers supply only the finest
sustainable seafood and shellfish.
We offer a friendly service and competitive prices.
All enquiries welcome, including any orders.

13 Highbury Park N5 1QJ / 020 7226 7377
shop@bournesfish.com



HCA News | Issue 113 | December 2019
© HCA 2019 | Editor: Gill Shepherd | Published by the HCA

Thank you and festive greetings



HCA News wishes its readers and advertisers a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year, and thanks to our advertisers for their valued support during the year.

We urge our readers to shop locally this Christmas, and enjoy Highbury's high standard of choice and service and its continuing parking facilities.

We charge a very reasonable £50 per ad for three issues. Charity notices are free (one per edition). If you have a local business or service to advertise, please contact hcanews@hotmail.com

Islington Choral Society “Sea Symphony” Ralph Vaughan Williams Holy Trinity, Sloane Square, 30th November 2019

By CHARLES PALLISER

Vaughan Williams’ “Sea Symphony” takes the words of the great American poet Walt Whitman as the basis of a mystical meditation on the ocean as a symbol of the potential, the dangers, and the rewards of human existence. The sailor’s passage across the sea becomes a voyage through life and eventually into the infinity of death which is portrayed by the music as the richest of all experiences. The Islington Choral Society, under the baton of Michael Waldron and with the excellent support of the Hertfordshire Chamber Orchestra, gave a magnificent performance of this beautiful work.

Full justice was done to the extraordinary range of the piece which goes from the wistful delicacy of meditation to the thundering terror of storm and danger. The varying moods of the symphony, ever changing like the sea itself, are embodied in the lovely melodies that are so characteristic of the composer. With its frequent changes of key, tempo, and time-signature, the piece is not easy to perform, but the choir rose superbly to the challenge. The audience was taken on a voyage that was sometimes tempestuous and often deeply introspective, and those present were very obviously moved by the

experience. The voices of the two fine soloists, Claire Rutter and Stephan Loges, soared towards the transcendence of the infinite and anchored hearers resolutely in the here and now. A memorable evening indeed.

