

HIGHBURY COMMUNITY NEWS

highburycommunity.org | @HighburyCA | facebook.com/highburycommunity

Update on the new community centre at Christ Church



By TANIA WITTER

You will have seen how much progress has been made in the construction of our new church community centre. There have been many obstacles along the way, as might be expected from building during Covid, with all its delays in the arrival of materials. However, the final decoration and fitting out of the interior of the Centre, and the paving of the courtyard were all completed to time.

A formal handover of the keys to the Centre was scheduled for

early April. We have been in process of transferring what was in the basement over to the Centre, and we are able to open it formally on Easter Sunday. An invitation is attached.

We can also let you know that, after a thorough tender process, Vent! has been appointed to run the cafe in the new Centre (subject to contract). Vent! is a company owned and run by Jack Tomkins who has been serving coffee from his coffee cart in the forecourt for some years. We know that many of you will be very happy about this appointment!



You are invited to
 THE OPENING CEREMONY OF
**CHRIST CHURCH
 COMMUNITY CENTRE**
 Easter Sunday, 17th April
 4.00 - 6.00pm
*Childrens' Activities
 & Refreshments*
 at Christ Church Highbury
 159 Highbury Grove, N5 1SA
a new resource for Highbury

EDITORIAL: HCA, the organisation's aims

By SARAH POTTER

The Highbury Community Association has the following comprehensive aims: 'The Highbury Community Association represents residents and businesses on all aspects of living and working in Highbury, Lower Holloway and Finsbury Park. It campaigns on local issues of interest to residents and businesses' (see our website). These aims clearly recognise that local communities have a complex variety of needs, including work, leisure and a range of amenities and services, including shops and businesses. We thus stress that we are a Community Association not a Residents' Association.

The Committee of the Highbury Community Association recently revisited these aims, to discuss how they could be applied afresh. The recent introduction of the Low Traffic Neighbourhood scheme in Highbury has changed our lives, and not surprisingly has become the dominant local issue. It has polarised local opinion between those wanting a more traffic free and less polluted Highbury inside the LTN, and

those against the restrictions and difficulties now facing many residents and businesses on the boundary roads. The HCA Committee has found itself divided too, in how to address the scheme.

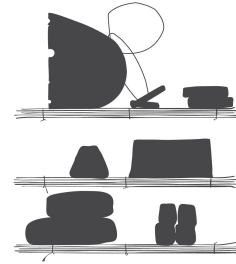
It was clear to the Committee that a way to discuss and respond effectively to local issues needed to be found, and that consideration for the range of needs that characterise communities, as recognised in our aims, is the way forward. An article in our Newsletter examining the reasons for local divisions and a recent one commenting on official council data on the scheme's impact, have unfortunately been seen by LTN supporters as demonstrating of the LTN to show a lack of proper commitment to a more car free Highbury, when the intention was first to give feedback on the scheme as it was piloted and then to report on the quality of the council's monitoring.

Our future approach to developments affecting local lives needs to

be based on detailed assessment of their possible impact. In the case of the LTN, for example, this might include the needs of roads once blighted and polluted by cut through traffic, the need for more cycling and walking, but also the needs of local residents with legitimate car journeys to make and the local businesses and tradesmen who now face extra mileage, expense and time as they go about their work.

Concessions have now been made which allow Blue Badge holders with cars to go through the cameras in the two Highbury LTNs. (There are just over 400 of these, according to a recent Freedom of Information request). But so far, no help has been offered to carers and district nurses on tight timetables who have several frail or sick people in their homes to visit within each hour, but whose car journeys have been lengthened by the camera filters.

We aim in the newsletter to report on debates and, where possible, to propose LTN improvements to Islington Council, which has indeed asked for these from residents.



LA FROMAGERIE

La Fromagerie Highbury

30 Highbury Park
N5 2AA
0207 359 7440

highbury@lafromagerie.co.uk
www.lafromagerie.co.uk

Also at:
2-6 Moxon Street, W1U 4EW
52 Lamb's Conduit Street, WC1N 3LL



HCA Annual General Meeting - and Party!

Saturday 23rd April 2022 from 7.15pm
At the Ecology Centre, 191 Drayton Park,
Highbury N5 1PH

You are invited to come for the AGM, to hear our speaker and to enjoy food, drink and a party afterwards.

Guest Speaker: Hamish McRae, of the Independent and the 'I', talking about his forthcoming book 'The World in 2050: how to think about the future'

Thinking again about barbecues: should Islington Council consider a complete ban?

By MARCUS MOLLAN

The Policy framework

Islington Council's local plan stresses that all development proposals 'must be at least Air Quality Neutral' (*Islington Strategic & Development Management Policies, Sept 2019*). The Mayor's London Plan makes similar commitments. (https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/the_london_plan_2021.pdf)

Surely emissions from barbecues are a minor issue compared with emissions from cars?

In terms of CO₂e¹, as the University of Manchester points out 'A typical summer barbecue for four people, releases more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere than an 80-mile (128km) car journey.'²

What's more, while the average PM_{2.5} emission rate of a car is

0.015g/km³, the average barbecue releases at least 12 grams of PM_{2.5}⁴. So one barbecue emits the same volume of PM_{2.5} particles as a car journey of 800km. Additionally, smoke PM_{2.5} particles are generally smaller than those released from cars and these smaller particles are more dangerous.

Barbecues, and their impact on trees

Around 20kg of CO₂ is removed from the atmosphere annually by a mature tree⁵. A typical disposable BBQ's charcoal creates about 4kg of CO₂e greenhouse gases when burned⁶, rising to 6kg of CO₂e if meat is cooked⁷. So, 5 BBQs (or if meat is cooked, only 3 BBQs) cancel out a year's-worth of a tree's carbon capture capacity.

These stark figures show that the positive impact of LBI's own tree-planting programme is very

readily negated if BBQs are allowed. What's more, over 90% of charcoal used in the UK is imported, and much of it is sourced from tropical and sub-tropical deforestation. So a double negative. (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-44880398>).

Conclusion

It is clear that if Islington Council is serious about climate change, it needs to ban BBQs - and not only in its parks, but - more contentiously - in back gardens too. An 'Air Quality Neutral' approach demands no less.



¹ CO₂e, "carbon dioxide equivalent", is a term for describing different greenhouse gases in a common unit.

² CO₂e release from BBQs if meat is cooked: University of Manchester: <https://www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/news/how-much-is-your-summer-bbq-damaging-the-environment/>

³ The PM_{2.5} emission rate of a car is 0.015g/km (rounded number from <https://naei.beis.gov.uk/data/ef-transport>).

⁴ 750g of charcoal (1 BBQ) releases around 5.7 grams of PM_{2.5}. (Source: UK National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory: see P.62 of <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/foi-eir-release/2021/03/foi202000124475/> Conservatively one can add 6.3 grams for PM_{2.5} arising from 1kg of meat (see McDonald et al, (2003) Emissions from Charbroiling and Grilling of Chicken and Beef, Journal of the Air & Waste Management Association, 53:2, 185-194, table P.8, p. 191.

⁵ <https://ww.usda.gov/media/blog/2015/03/17/ppower-one-tree-very-air-we-breathe/>

⁶ CO₂ release from charcoal burning: the charcoal emission factor is calculated as 5kg of CO₂e per kg of charcoal (<http://www.fao.org/3/x2740e/x2740e60.pdf>), assuming (a) about 2.5kg CO₂e per kg in production (<http://www.fao.org/3/i6935en/i6935en.pdf> Table 4 p.41) plus (b) about 2.5kg CO₂e per kg in combustion. We assume 750g of charcoal per BBQ, so 4kg CO₂e per BBQ.

⁷ See footnote 2

Environmental improvements near Ambler Primary School on the Blackstock Road

By DOROTHY NEWTON

Introduction

To build on the success of the School Streets programme, the council is starting to try to deliver environmental improvements near schools on main roads. Ambler Primary School has been selected as one of these.

There has been a School Street scheme for Ambler on Romilly Road since 2019, with the road open only for residents at drop off and pickup times. However, the main entrance to the school is on Blackstock Road, which is key to the local transport system, and cannot be closed temporarily at drop-off and pick-up times. Instead, greening measures and footway improvements are proposed to increase the space between the road and the school entrance.

The council stated that:

- to improve the air quality at the school gates, the council is proposing to widen the footway outside the school, moving traffic and its emissions further from the school gates.
- We are also proposing to introduce new greening measures including trees and plants. The wider footways and new planters will make it safer for children, their parents and carers, by providing separation between traffic and pedestrians.
- To make it easier for people to be active on their way to school, we are proposing to install new cycle stands for both bicycles and scooters
- they will install seating to allow people to rest and interact with the local community

Consultation with Hackney

At the public consultation meeting,

it emerged that there had been no consultation with people living on the East side of the Blackstock Road (who live in Hackney). What liaison had taken place between Islington and Hackney Councils?

Consultation with the police

At the time of the public consultation meeting no response had been asked from or delivered by the Police.

Consultation with local people

Will the proposed measures help to provide greater safety for the children at Ambler? These are some of the points I heard raised by local people at the consultation open day

Traffic build-up - The new traffic lights at the Blackstock/Ambler/ junction already cause traffic queues on Blackstock Road which tail back to the school. If the road is narrowed further, there will be more queues, and more emissions.

Bike racks - Would the proposed racks be a safe and sensible place to park a bike or scooter for the day when so many bikes in local public racks are vandalised and stolen?

Benches - Will the proposed benches attract trouble? There was concern that during the day, and at night, they would become a gathering point for the young men who already spend much time out on the street in

the local area, making the location less, not more, attractive to parents and others.

Planters - Will all the planters etc make the pavement narrower and more difficult for people with disabilities?

Alternative suggestions

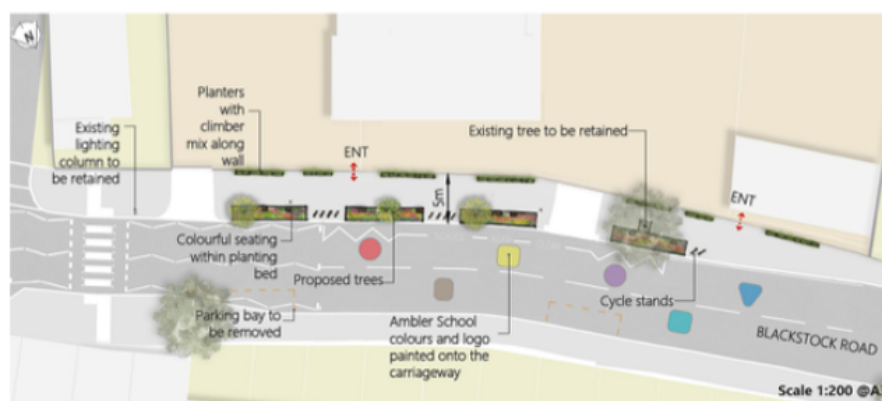
People at the consultation day made some alternative suggestions

- *Concentrate planting on the inside of the school's periphery*, planting small trees and building more high mesh fences with dense ivy etc.
- *Make the Romilly Road entrance the main entrance*, so that the Blackstock Road entrance is no longer used.

Conclusion

This final suggestion seems to make the greatest sense of all. The World Health Organisation suggests that NO2 concentrations do not drop off for at least 200 metres from a main road, while PM2.5 particles drop off within 100 metres ('Review of evidence on health aspects of air pollution' WHO Copenhagen, 2013). Widening the pavement by a couple of metres will make no difference at all. However, LBI's original plans are going ahead, and their impact will be reported on in a few months' time.

Proposed street layout



Music festivals this summer in Finsbury Park

By SARAH POTTER

The Highbury Community Association, in the years before Covid, worked with Islington Council, Haringey Council and the organisers of the July Wireless Festival in Finsbury Park to reduce the festival's impact on Islington residents. Up to 2019, 45,000 people attended Wireless each year, and Islington residents experienced loss of access to the park, high levels of noise, litter, and traffic and crowds spilling over into Highbury streets. Co-ordinated planning and monitoring were put in place to minimise these nuisances experienced by the local community.

This year, Wireless and an associated festival are returning to the park for the weekends starting on 8th and 15th July, with the loss of access to the park for local people starting on 29th June and ending on 23 July, as the festival stages are first installed and then dismantled. However, three smaller commercial festivals previously running each year in May and September have not been included in Haringey's Finsbury Park events plan for this year, which is welcome.

HCA's representative attended Haringey's recent Finsbury Park

Events Stakeholders meeting and heard from the Councillor who leads for Haringey on Parks, Mike Hakata, that this year's Wireless Festival is necessary to meet the Council's costs for staffing and maintenance of Finsbury Park. Councillor Hakata announced, however, that there will shortly be a comprehensive review, involving the park's stakeholders, of events in the Park, so that local community events, such as the Latin American music festival, are foremost in the programme.

The HCA will be involved again this year in working with Haringey, the organisers of Wireless, and Islington Councillors to minimise the impact of Wireless on our local residents, and in the review of the events programme proposed by Councillor Hakata.



Help us keep our membership list up to date.

Let us know if you have moved, or have updated your email address.

Do you think your neighbours would like to receive the newsletter? Simply ask them to email us and we'll do the rest...

Please contact us at hcanews@hotmail.com

FIVE BOYS
Drug & Health Food Store

17 Highbury Park N5 1QJ
020 7359 3623

9:00am to 7:30pm
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

fiveboys17@hotmail.com

MACMcCABER

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

Cinnamon Village Café

Blackstock Road

Café - Bakery - Ice Cream Shop

Local honey

produced by Cinnamon Village

WiFi

7 days a week, 8am to 6pm

Tel: 020 7226 8777

160-162 Blackstock Road, London N5 1HA

A new Highbury neighbour, ClientEarth



By GILL SHEPHERD and GEORGIA SHORTMAN

ClientEarth is an environmental legal NGO using the power of the law to protect life on earth. The charity recognises that using the law is often the most effective way to call governments to account for meaningful climate action. Spanning across eight offices worldwide: one in the US, one in China, and five in mainland Europe, ClientEarth’s global headquarters sits in the heart of Highbury at 34 Drayton Park, (the old Cypressa factory).

ClientEarth works to improve the protection of the environment in the UK, in Europe and worldwide. In the UK and Europe, it has focused on pollution, clean energy, agriculture,

fisheries, climate accountability, plastics and greenwashing. It won a High Court victory on UK air pollution in 2018, the judge complementing the NGO as ‘an expert claimant’ and a ‘valuable monitor of the UK government’s actions’.

Just this month, with Friends of the Earth and the Good Law Project, ClientEarth has begun the process of suing the UK Government over its inadequate net zero carbon strategy, arguing that it has failed to set out sufficient policies to tackle climate change and reach net zero emissions by 2050.

Tropical forests are key to tackling climate change, and yet laws governing them often need updating to reflect international commitments on forest protection, sustainable forest management, and the rights of indigenous forest peoples. ClientEarth’s legal experts have worked alongside national civil society organisations and partners to ensure that legal reform carries over

into practice. They have recently produced a Manual on law reform in the forest sector.

Many problems of course profoundly link North and South. The EU and the UK are major importers of commodities such as palm oil, soy, beef, cocoa and rubber, that are associated with deforestation, ecosystem destruction and human rights violations. Forests do not only disappear because of the timber trade. ClientEarth works with partners to develop better governance at the producer end, and at the same time harnesses the trading and purchasing power of the EU and the UK, where these supply chains are concerned, to press for the protection of nature and human rights.

In an incredibly interconnected world, it is good to know that ClientEarth can move action forward on so many fronts, and we could not be happier to have them as our Highbury neighbours.

ACCOUNTANTS FOR SMALL BUSINESS

We specialise in supporting small businesses and can help with:

- Self Assessment Tax Returns
- Bookkeeping & VAT
- Business Accounts
- Payroll & HR
- Corporation Tax
- Company Formations
- Business Start-ups
- ...and much more

For your free, no obligation meeting call us today on 020 7354 2661 or visit us online at www.taxassist.co.uk/islington-N5

TaxAssist Accountants
The Accountancy and Tax Service for Small Business

WOODLAND HARDWARE

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

OPEN 9am-5:30pm, Sundays 10am-3pm
20 Highbury Park N5 2AB - Tel: 020 7354 5029
Email: hwoodla@aol.com
www.woodlandhardware.com

'The Battle of London 1939-45, Endurance, Heroism and Frailty Under Fire' by Jerry White

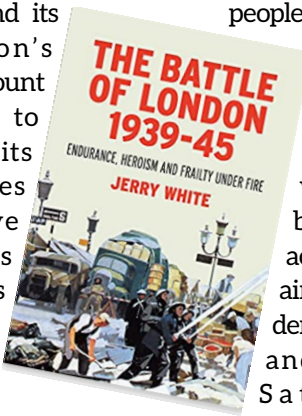
By SARAH POTTER

Historian Jerry White has followed his award-winning account of London in the First World War 'Zeppelin Nights' with a new book on London in World War 2, 'The Battle of London 1939-45, Endurance, Heroism and Frailty Under Fire'. His story of Londoners in the Blitz speaks to us very powerfully in these days of war in Europe.

Unlike the rest of the country, London prospered between the wars, with very rapid growth in jobs and homes and nearly 9 million people by 1939, a number not reached again until 2015. By 1945 however, half the nation's civilian war dead were Londoners, amounting to nearly 30,000, and thus London was the nation's front line, and London and its people bore the brunt of the nation's suffering.

White's account of the Blitz in London aims to give particular attention to its defence forces which he believes have been neglected in previous accounts - those who worked as air raid wardens, the rescue and demolition squads, and the fire service and ambulance workers. On Saturday 7th September 1940, 320 German bombers inflicted enormous damage, flying up the Thames in the first raid of the 'Big Blitz' which continued every night until 2nd November. After a quieter period, on Sunday 29th December a raid known as the Second Great Fire of London started a new blitz, with further major nights of bombing in April and May. Nevertheless, 'All contemporary evidence concurs that these frontline services coped astonishingly well with everything thrown at them' and saved lives. Londoners coped with calm and resilience in 'the worst bombardment of a civilian population in history to that point'.

White argues that although Londoners had earned the highest of reputations by 1945, the city recovered slowly post-war, in part because planners and governments directed industry and housing away from London to rebalance the economy. Only in the 1980s did the revival begin. White concludes 'The history of London's Second World War and its direful aftermath is a warning that success is fragile' (p. 341) for our world city, dependent as it is on governments and international events.





Clay Time Pottery Place C.I.C.
 Book 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

Adults and children welcome!

Wednesday–Saturday 12–6pm, with Covid secure studio
 168 Blackstock Road N5 1HA – 020 3441 8787
info@claytime.london – [facebook.com/claytimelondon](https://www.facebook.com/claytimelondon)
www.claytime.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

Free deliveries available

Deliveries to the elderly and vulnerable available

92 Highbury Park N5 2XE - 020 7159 4867



Gathering Moss Furniture & Gifts

193 Blackstock Road N5 2LL
 Open Saturday and Sunday 11am to 6pm

Makers of lovely affordable unique furniture
 using Reclaimed Wood
 Made to the size of design you want
 Lovely Fairtrade gifts

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