

HIGHBURY COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Managing Finsbury Park sustainably and for the common good

By KATIE DAWKINS AND SARAH POTTER



Tough Mudder

A Friends of Finsbury Park public meeting was held on 27 April, above all to discuss the destruction wrought on the park by the mud race organised by “Tough Mudder” over the weekend of 15th to 16th of April. To the disgust of all present Mike Hakata, (Environment Cabinet member for Haringey) pulled out of this meeting at the very last moment.

Hundreds of people had taken part in this military style mini-marathon and obstacle course, where mud was an essential ingredient, churning up the grass and leaving the park a huge quagmire. Local MPs David Lammy and Jeremy Corbyn referred to the event as an environmental disgrace, and it will take a great deal of effort to bring the park back to its previous condition. The organisation has now been banned from using the park in the future.

Conflict over the purpose of the park

Unfortunately there are broader issues at play as well. Peray Ahmet, the Leader of Haringey Council, sees Finsbury Park as an income generating ‘events space’ (his words). The council are not thinking of the park or park users in any of

the decision-making around the events they allow. Many people have given up their time to improve Finsbury Park, planting the community orchard and taking other steps to increase biodiversity. But the council repeatedly licences events that trash it and put it out of bounds to local people for much of the summer. For instance the tennis court area is taken completely out of service for the whole of July so that festival toilets can be located there.

The Friends are considering legal action to force Haringey to publish their finances for the park (which they have resisted so far). Funds raised from Park events are supposed to be spent on the park, but there is the suspicion that this is not happening. At the same time it seems that a further licence will be granted to Wireless for the next 5 years.



The Wireless festival in Finsbury Park in July 2022 attracted up to 50,000 people a day.

Managing Finsbury Park

Continued from page 1...

The police representatives at the meeting reported that Haringey was even considering removing all boundary fences from the park (despite the obvious implications for crime – and without having consulted the police) as a way of further facilitating festivals.

Finsbury Park was opened 154 years ago as a space for residents of the city to escape their dense urban surroundings and find clean air. But this primary raison d'être is being increasingly set aside in favour of income generation for Haringey Council. There is no objection to smaller and more locally focused events raising funds for the park's upkeep and management, but there is now serious conflict over the much larger income generating events.

A possible way forward

The park is located at the junction of three boroughs – Haringey, Hackney and Islington and is used by the public from all three boroughs. In response to recent events, and in the light of Haringey's poor management of the park, it was suggested that a new tri-borough park governance model should be explored. Gary Heather thought Islington was interested in this, as did Claire Potter for Hackney.

We shall continue to follow this issue as it unfolds.

Help us keep our membership list up to date. Let us know if you have moved, or have updated your email address.

If 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

Arsenal Station

By TOM BOGDANOWICZ



Austere yet distinctive, the façade of Arsenal Station has always looked like the work of highly-regarded architect Charles Holden, yet it was not easy to find confirmation of this. So it was reassuring to see that the 'Modernism in Metroland' website attributes the design clearly to Holden with implementation by Stanley Heaps, the chief architect for London Underground at the time.

Holden, the leading consultant to London Underground, designed such iconic stations as Southgate (the one that looks like a flying saucer at night); Arnos Grove, Sudbury Town and many of the other non-central stations on the Piccadilly and Northern lines. He started out as an Arts and Crafts architect (Belgrave Hospital in Kennington) but changed his style to a more modernist one after spending several years designing cemeteries for fallen soldiers in France. His best-known buildings include 55 Broadway, at St James's Park and the Senate House in Bloomsbury.

As most readers will know, if only from standing on platforms with large Gillespie Road signs, the station was renamed (originally as Arsenal and Highbury Hill) at the request of the Arsenal football club manager Herbert

Chapman in 1932. The club had moved to Highbury, from Woolwich Arsenal, in 1913. The old Gillespie Road station façade (see drawing), built in 1906, was a smaller version of Holloway Road station in the "modern" (art nouveau) red-terracotta style favoured by the then

London Underground chief architect, Leslie Green. While that facade has gone, the original tiling on platforms has been restored and includes the original name.

Should you want to see what the un-restored tiling looked like you can stop off at Holloway Road (a listed station). Unlike later tube stations, Arsenal retains the original Underground (capital U, capital D) lettering on the façade, as the photo shows.

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 £140 a day pro rata

I also clean windows inside and out - £80-90 for a 3-storey Victorian house

Ageing and House prices: What are the implications for London?

By GILL SHEPHERD



We are already seeing the impacts of this in Islington as primary schools close or amalgamate with others nearby. When that starts happening to secondary schools, we will be in deep trouble. There will soon be other impacts, too, not only on travel demand, but also on travel mode, with likely increases in the use of buses (and perhaps the tube) as populations age.

We live in an ageing society in the UK. The country's average age is about 41 (and it is even older in Europe where the average age is closer to 44). By contrast, the average age in the Middle East is about 22, while it is only 19 in Africa.

Of course, an average age is just that. Many communities in the UK have a much older average age because youngsters have left for the cities. Towns and cities have more youngsters in them and so their average age has usually been younger.

So, it is unnerving to read that other additional factors are now causing an ageing of London's population, too. The most recent "Travel in London report" – number 15 (2021) states:

"London's population is getting older. The highest growth rates between 2011 and 2021 were people in their 50s, 60s and 70s, with the largest group of people in their 50s (30%). The number of people in their 20s declined, as did the number of children aged under five. For the future, lower estimated population growth and changing age profiles will have implications

for travel demand forecasts. These are yet to be updated to reflect the 2021 census and for our wider planning assumptions. The implications are currently being worked through".

Especially relevant for those of us that live in Highbury and Islington are the compounding effects of other additional pressures. Very high house prices in inner London, and lower prices in outer London are tending to force couples who started their family life in inner London to move further out when they have children. At the Centre for London, senior researcher Jon Tabbush has analysed 20 years of census results, and found families going missing from all over central London. In Lambeth, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, Hackney, and Islington, families with children have dropped by at least 10%. Meanwhile, out in Barking and Dagenham there has been a 34% increase in households with children. The picture is the same all round the perimeter of the city: its children and its future are being formed on the outskirts. Inner London has become a no-go area for the working poor.

A major increase in cycling looks very unlikely, and further decreases in the use of cars may slow as well. These realities will have to be worked into the forward planning undertaken by inner London boroughs, including our own.



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
168 Blackstock Road N5 1HA -
020 3441 8787

www.claytime.london –
info@claytime.london
[facebook.com/claytimelondon](https://www.facebook.com/claytimelondon)
[Instagram @claytimecic](https://www.instagram.com/claytimecic)

Getting a speed camera into place on the approach to Highbury Barn from the North

By GILL SHEPHERD AND SARAH POTTER



matching camera for vehicles going in the other direction. Cameras, and the warnings they give drivers on their GPS, are an important way of reminding them of the 20 mile an hour speed limit.

Patricia Michelson of La Fromagerie is very concerned that

The recent car crash at Highbury barn, which smashed the façades of several shops, reminded HCA that there has been discussion in the past of the need for a speed camera north of the Barn somewhere outside Joan of Arc school or just before it. Cars do pick up speed as they come up the hill from Riversdale Road on Highbury Park, and if there are no impediments they may well go through Highbury Barn too fast. There is a speed camera which slows cars coming towards the Barn from the south, and we feel there is an urgent need for a

the footfall number of cars stopping for shopping at or near the Barn has fallen, and we share her concern for the continued vitality of our local centre, where deliveries can also be difficult. Thus an improvement to the safety and usability of our shops at Highbury barn would be very welcome.

The best way of campaigning for an additional speed camera here, is to approach local councillors about the issue in the first instance.

Christchurch Upmarket 11.00 – 4.00 p.m. Saturday 10th June



Christchurch will be holding its next upmarket shortly. There will be stalls in the church space, children’s activities and a bouncy castle in the garden, and salsa dancing in the community centre.

There will also be refreshments in the fellowship room and in the centre café, and there will be a breakfast barbecue on the church forecourt.



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**

 *bee local*
LOCAL HONEY CO.

<u>PRODUCTS</u>	<u>WORKSHOPS</u>
* 100% Natural Raw Local Honey	* Beekeeping
* 100% Natural Lip Balm	* Honey Extracting
* 100% Natural Beeswax	* Lip Balm Making
* Handmade Crochet Bees	* Beehive & Frame Assembly
* Beekeeping Equipments	
* Honey Bee Colonies and Nucs	

Local Honey Co. Ltd
183 Blackstock Rd, N5 2LL

www.thelocalhoney.co.uk
info@thelocalhoney.co.uk
f @localhoneycolondon

Highbury neighbourhood meetings with Arsenal

By GILL SHEPHERD



Two useful meetings have so far taken place between representatives of Arsenal football club, Highbury residents, and one of the Arsenal councillors, Fin Craig.

Some issues, such as the loud droning noise which is heard when the rain pumps on the roof of the stadium have accidentally been left on after the water has been pumped away can be, and are being, addressed by Arsenal staff. However, some problems cannot be dealt with by the club alone.

There is still much unhappiness among Highbury residents about the fact that they have to pay for RingGo electronic tickets for their visitors on match days, instead of using paper tickets. This is partly because they are so expensive (£2 for every half an hour) but also because it can be difficult to know when matches are going to be held.

Although the media team at Arsenal are now maintaining a frequently updated website for us -

<https://www.arsenal.com/the-club/local-residentsnews> - posting details of all fixtures, last-minute fixture changes can still be challenging for both them and us. And of course, in our case we are fined if we have not got our RingGo orders into place in

time (this often means by the day before). Electronic tickets require firstly details about the number plate of the visitor (easy perhaps in the case of frequent visitors, more challenging if the visitor is an emergency workman). These tickets also presuppose deft familiarity with the Internet, so that the Arsenal neighbours' website can be consulted, and then the RingGo app. This has proved to be beyond the skills of many of our residents.

The change to RingGo has penalised all of Arsenal's neighbours severely for the crimes of a tiny minority of their number reputedly selling paper tickets to supporters. It should in fact have been perfectly possible at the council end to spot who was buying paper tickets in large numbers - if this is taking place. Our experience is that this is truly "taking a sledgehammer to crack a nut", and we shall continue to object.

HIGHBURY
COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION

Highbury Community Association AGM

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held at the Ecology Centre, Drayton Park, on 7 October 2023.

Our speaker is Sheila Dillon the wise and witty editor of Radio 4's **The Food Programme** which looks at food in the broadest sense: the politics and economics of food in the UK and worldwide, as well as the food we hope to find on our plates. Sheila is a long time Highbury resident.

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

Seasons and Blossoms

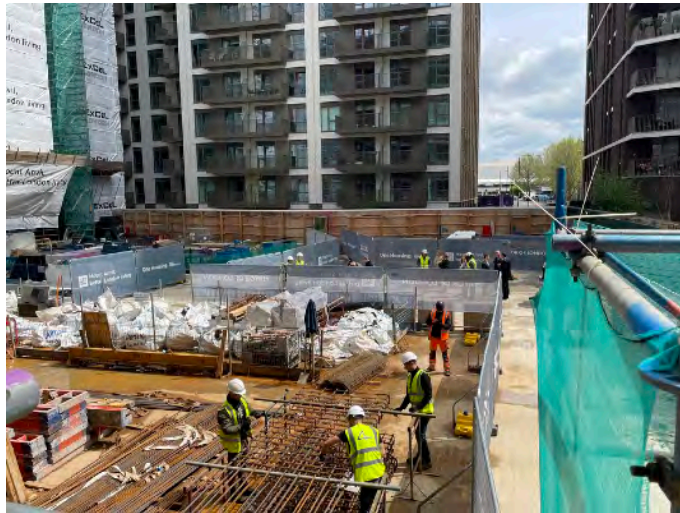
We are a health food shop in Highbury selling a large range of fresh local and organic fruit and vegetables and health foods

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

92 Highbury Park N5 2XE
020 7159 4867

London Forum: Housebuilding targets in London

By GILL SHEPHERD



The London Forum reports that a 35% rise in housing targets for cities is still in place which implies that London would need to double the number of houses it builds annually.

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill reaches its Report Stage in the Lords this summer and the forum will be active in opposing that part of the

borough in the whole country with 14,575 people to the km², for instance, and very little space indeed for additional housing.

Population densities are lower in outer London with Waltham Forest at 7173 to the km², Barking at 6066, Barnet at 4489, and Enfield at 4083 to the km².



Early Bird Tax Service
Complete your tax return now

Take advantage of our **no fuss, fixed fee** tax return service and file your return early. If you are due a tax refund, you can receive this earlier by acting today.

Book a Free Consultation: **0800 0523 555**

Visit our store at Address Line 1,
 Address Line 2, City, Post Code
taxassist.co.uk/your-town



There is plainly more space for housebuilding in such boroughs, but of course it needs to be accompanied by schools, shopping centres, medical facilities and public transport, not to mention employment opportunities.

There are signs that over-centralised decision-making is likely to fail to deliver on the improved infrastructure needed to accompany housebuilding, and that in densely populated Inner London boroughs like Islington, the last remaining green open spaces will be under additional threat.

Dementia Awareness Workshops in Islington

By NATHAN HARTLEY

Over the next 12 months, Dementia Awareness Workshops will be held in 25 different locations across the borough.

The Director of the local provider of personal care in the home, Bluebird Care, explained, “one in four people will be affected by dementia during their lifetimes, which is why it is important to work with individuals and families to make life easier for those who live with it. With the specialist services we provide, we are determined to do just that with these new Dementia Awareness sessions.”

Information sessions such as these, set up by the Alzheimer’s Society, have been running across the country for several years. They focus on improving inclusion and quality-of-life for people living with dementia. People with dementia and their carers will be encouraged to seek help and support and the goal is for people with dementia to feel more included in the community.

If you would like to arrange a free dementia awareness workshop in your area contact Nathan Hartley by email (NathanHartley1@bluebirdcare.co.uk).



HCA News
Issue 128
May - June 2023
 © HCA 2021
 Editor: Gill Shepherd
 Layout: Susana Liveras
 Published by the HCA

London at the Crossroads?

A REPORT BY SARAH POTTER ON A LECTURE GIVEN BY TONY TRAVERS



Professor Tony Travers from the London School of economics, expert on London and one of our previous speakers at an HCA AGM, recently gave a lecture to the King's College Strand Group in which he spoke about London's future. He identified the period from 2008 onwards as a time of turbulence for our city. From the early 2000s, London had emerged as the world's leading global city, but in Travers' view, four once-in-a-lifetime shocks have occurred since then which have put London at a crossroads in maintaining its status.

The first was the 2008 banking crisis, which slowed UK economic growth. The second was the Brexit vote of 2016 which in his view is likely to cause a slow puncture in the position of the City of London as a financial centre, with Paris now attracting greater inward investment. The Brexit vote also revealed popular resentment of London in the regions, which resulted in the government's attempt to apply levelling-up policies in poorer parts of the country, by making cuts to infrastructure investment and the Arts in London. The third was the pandemic, which has had more serious effects in London than elsewhere, especially on the use of public transport and its Central Activities Zone. Finally, war in Ukraine has delivered a shock to Europe as a whole.

While Travers believes most of London's advantages as a global city are still in place, uncertainty

nevertheless remains. He outlines policies at all levels of government which are now urgently needed:

- More devolution from the centre to City Hall and the borough Town Halls is required so the decisions are made at lower levels;
- The top priorities are continued investment in transport, the NHS estate, and more housebuilding, especially social housing; cleaner and safer neighbourhoods also needed along with clearer accountability for the Met.

But more thought is needed too about what the place of London in the UK should be. Very high levels of

deprivation still exist in London alongside economic growth and these need to be dealt with. But it is also important that the role of London in the UK is clarified, and its position strengthened supported and valued, an improved understanding of the place of London in the UK, including the very high levels of deprivation which coexist with economic growth.

Overall, he contends in his lecture that "London's government, economy and place within the UK needs to be strengthened, supported and valued." The ambiguity about the building of the HS2 link to Euston only serves to underline how the government has swung to and fro on London's role.

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

STEVE HADLEY ELECTRICS
Power and Lighting Solutions

Highbury based, no call out fee for local work

- Upgrade your lighting to LED, to save you up to 80% on your bills
- Replace heat and smoke alarms when they reach the end of their shelf life to keep home insurance valid
- Install additional lighting and electrical sockets
- Keep landlords up to date with new legislation
- General maintenance

0784 3606 854
steve@cinalliestates.co.uk



INTERGENERATIONAL WALKING FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Because Friendship Matters

Join BuddyHub's first walking football tournament and celebrate the power of friendship through sport!

- A great opportunity to meet new people, stay active and experience some friendly competition.
- Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned athlete, come enjoy this day of fun, friendship and fitness (18+, all genders).
- Sign up as a team or individual.

DETAILS

- Free Event
- 10th June 2023
- 15:00 - 17:00
- The Arsenal Hub, 56 Benwell Rd. N7 7BY
- Join us after at the pub for a celebratory drink!

REGISTER NOW!



Scan QR Code For More Details or Call Us!



buddyhub.co.uk | hello@buddyhub.co.uk | 0203 642 6871 | [@buddyhubster](https://www.instagram.com/buddyhubster) | [/buddyhub.co.uk](https://www.facebook.com/buddyhub.co.uk)