

HIGHBURY COMMUNITY NEWS

www.highburycommunity.org

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Crowds under control?

By Roger Wright



NOW YOU SEE IT, NOW YOU DON'T! POLICE BARRIERS BETWEEN DRAYTON PARK AND HORSELL ROAD DISAPPEAR UNDER THE CRUSH

SO WHAT IS the new Stadium called: "Ashburton Grove"? "Emirates Stadium"? "New Highbury"? "***** Stadium"? Interestingly, although the Stadium itself is in N7, Arsenal's postal address is in Drayton Park and is still N5 – so perhaps it should be 'New Highbury' after all.

So has anything changed? The answer must be "No" but also "Yes" – we have the same old problems but they are much, much larger in scale and affect a bigger area than before.

The new stadium is more or less sold out. For the regular home games this season so far, about 60,000 have turned up.

Of course, we all know that there have been no improvements in the transport infrastructure, that Holloway Road tube is closed before and that after matches and Drayton Park is shut early when there is an evening match, just to make sure no one can use it! After matches, people are queued up in Holloway Road, which restricts the traffic further causing long delays.

The result of this is to ensure that the kinds of scene we used to see outside Arsenal tube station for 20 minutes after a match now occur regularly at Highbury Corner, Arsenal and Finsbury Park for at least 40 minutes after a match, even assuming that the tubes run well. After the Aston Villa game on Saturday 19th August, Highbury and Islington station was closed. The police tried to 'hold' the fans in Drayton Park to stop them spilling out over Holloway Road. As a result,

there was a 'mass breakout' along Horsell Road – see photos.

It is becoming clear that the Metropolitan Police are having to provide many more officers to control the crowds than they did before and also that they are unable to control the crowds if anything unusual occurs. Will we soon see cuts in police services across the borough as a result of the additional expenditure required? Arsenal Football Club only pays for the police presence inside the ground. The policing outside is paid for from the borough policing budget.

After matches, many fans are also seen crossing Highbury Fields diagonally from the end of Ronalds Road to Highbury Corner. On Saturday afternoons, this has completely disrupted normal community use of the lower part of Highbury Fields as thousands of fans cross on the grass. The original 'management plan' said that this would be controlled and prevented but there has been no sign of this from the Council or police, so far.

On the other hand, no one has been killed by lorries or buses in Holloway Road yet – but what might happen on a cold, wet Wednesday night in January when the tube system breaks down and Arsenal have lost a mid-week game?

Highbury Community Association [HCA] also understands that Arsenal Football Club is operating a restaurant on match days in their building in Drayton Park. They have no planning permission for this – the building is only approved for

use as offices. The Council's legal officers are discussing this with AFC at present.

If you have any information about problems caused on matchdays, please let HCA know. HCA would particularly like to understand what is happening in St Thomas's Street and at Finsbury Park.

Do you have photographs or comments about problems on match-days?

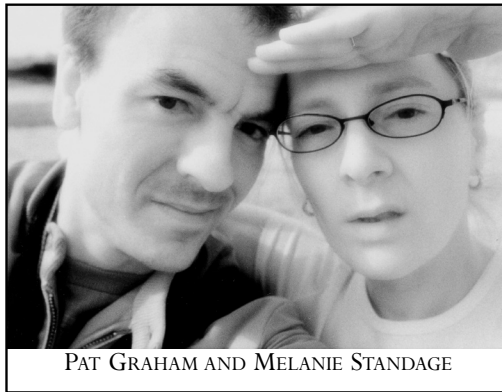
If you have photographs of what's happening in your road, please submit them to the new match-day problem website, set up by local residents: <http://www.stadiumimpact.info>

STOP PRESS – McAlpine's Community Liaison Meeting

MCALPINE'S HELD a liaison meeting at All Saints Church on 30th August to present what will be happening about the redevelopment of the old Arsenal Stadium – now called 'Highbury Square'. Many people are already unhappy with the noise, vibration, pollution and lorries. It transpired that although many streets are affected by this, only a few had been notified about the meeting and our councillors hadn't been invited either. Neither did anyone from the Council's traffic department attend. Many people were pressing for another such meeting before the 'Big Dig' starts in October. We will have more about this in our next issue.

American art in Highbury

HCA interviews Pat Graham and Melanie Standage from 96 Gillespie, a small, contemporary art gallery on ... 96 Gillespie Road. Pat Graham is from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA, and a famous music photographer in the US, while Melanie Standage is a designer/photographer from London who lived part of her youth in New Foundland, Canada. 96 Gillespie opened early 2004, has had many exhibitions since and its website www.96gillespie.com is now visited 300 to 500 times per day.



PAT GRAHAM AND MELANIE STANDAGE

HCA – What brought you to Highbury?

Pat – When we wanted more space than our Stoke Newington base offered, we found it in Highbury. 96 Gillespie Road was once the Gillespie Road Post Office and we made it into a gallery, home and open studio.

Mel – The gallery is not on the high street and it's in part a destination gallery and this is a great location for public transport. We noticed it after 7/7, which nearly shut down the gallery, and we notice it on match days, although the odd football fan comes in.

HCA – Your gallery seems to be more than a gallery alone.

Pat – We initially didn't get here with the clear idea of making this a gallery. We wanted a place where art making and art display are casual and part of life. Then we wanted to put work of friends on display and noticed the missing slot for American art in London.

Mel – And also we both have a strong link to the music scene and, where music always seems to find it's venues, exchange, and momentum, that's not the case for the art linked to music. The art we show in the gallery is edgy, but fresh and from quality artists. The gallery is more than a place where we hang art – we try to encourage a dialogue between American and British artists, which makes it more interesting and makes creativity and energy come in. For us it is very much 'labour of love', but it supports itself and it supports the artists. And by now people from Highbury come to us too!

Pat – Even people who were not into this kind of art or didn't know the artist come in and some buy things.

HCA – What next?

Pat – We are preparing the next exhibition, which is called 'The Sound of Stones in the Glass House' from Christian Brett in collaboration with Gee Vaucher. Christian Brett is an artist who works around typography. Gee is from East London and very influential in the US.

Mel – Christian and Gee stage this as a response to the events of 9/11 and their aftermath. It is not about the victims of war, but a study of those who most profit by the creation of war. Their idea is that those leading the 'war on terror' are in fact the perpetrators

and benefactors of it. Centrepiece of the exhibition is Christian Brett's installation of a glasshouse with opaque panes that have been etched and inscribed with a list of US military interventions made over the last 100 years.

Pat – After that, at the end of November, we will put on a show about crafts and craftmaking, about using your hands to make art. It hangs together with a Christmas tradition from New Foundland where Melanie lived. We will have crafts from artists all over the world – Japan, the UK and the US – and will include work that won't cost too much. And we are working on the publication of a book called 'Silent Picture'. Melanie designed it and it has a selection of the photographs I took over a period of 10 years of musicians and live music.

HCA – And looking further ahead?

P&M – We have plenty of plans. Consider this gallery as work in progress, not fully landed. On one end we want to make the gallery tie more into the community – we are thinking about community outreach. On another we want to explore contacts with galleries and art collectives in Philadelphia and Washington and work on the international dialogue.

Coming up: an exhibition by Christian Brett in collaboration with Gee Vaucher: 'The Sound of Stones in the Glass House' (opening: Thursday 5 October 7-9pm; runs: 6-29 October). This winter: 'Silent Picture' by Pat Graham published by Akashic Books, New York, USA

96 Gillespie Road, London N5 1LN – info@96gillespie.com – opening hours: Thursday-Sunday; 2-6 pm, or by appointment – admission: free. Phone: 0207 503 3496

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Noisy loudspeaker

Arsenal have not got the PA system sorted yet. The noise volume is very high and booms out into residents' homes though open windows and very loudly in gardens and the streets, over a wide area as far as Hamilton Park West, Northolme Road.... The clarity in people's homes and gardens is excellent, so that every word can be heard. This disrupts normal life – work and relaxation. Apparently the clarity is less good in the ground. Possibly it is too loud and if turned down would be heard better in the Stadium?

SwapXChange

Have you looked at the Islington SwapXChange site advertised in the last HCNews? All manner of things are being swapped daily. The site is well run and your notice is removed once you report that you have achieved a swap. Bicycles, unwanted IKEA furniture, toys, and even a fully working 20 year old car were swapped last month. Most people ask for a box of chocolates or bottle of wine – the car was swapped for a donation to charity. It is an efficient way to recycle goods you don't want and to find ones you might need. So far over 7500 people have visited the Islington Swapxchange website, swapping over 6 tonnes of items. www.swapxchangeislington.org

In search of Jar 1.7L

Artist's story: Lorraine Clarke



FERTILITY DOLLS – DETAIL

Artist Lorraine Clarke, originally from Yorkshire, has exhibited in Italy, France and the USA. She has a residency at Florence Trust Studios, St. Saviours Church, Aberdeen Park, and is a co-founder and art director of Euroart Studios in Tottenham. She lives in Highbury.

“I start with a little lie ... I'm not panicking!

I've got a huge exhibition in November at the University of Hertfordshire Galleries (UHG), my first major UK solo show since returning to England in 2000 after 19 years in Italy, entitled 'Nosce Te Ipsum' (Know Thyself).

The Art & Design Gallery at UHG is a cavernous atrium, where I will show a new body of work exploring the link between Magic, Medicine and Religion, ranging from entire installations to small-scale pieces. Influenced and informed by anatomy and aspects of the medical world, from the ancient amulet to reproductive cloning, my work evokes the past as well as exploring contemporary ethical and moral issues.

Early last year in a Holborn hair salon, I happened upon the presentation for a series of 'fertility dolls' I've been creating – a large clear 1 gallon glass jar. I'm friends with Bruno at the salon and he promised to pass some jars on to me. Tea came in them, and the clients' consumption was such that I was collecting them at the rate of about one a month. After 15 months of jars, to my dismay, the salon did away with the tea. The company wouldn't tell me where they bought the jars. OK, I thought, let's get on the internet and find the thirty-six I needed to complete the installation.

Here's where the agitation begins! You apparently can't buy 1 gallon jars in England, or even Europe for that matter.

If this wasn't aggravating enough, what did I find in 'Oregano', my favourite local pizzeria (St. Albans Place, near the Angel)? Yeah, you guessed ... glass jars for my series of small fertility dolls.

This time they were 1.7L and capers came in them. I was collecting at a fairly good rate, but then the capers supplier changed from glass to plastic jars – I'm deflated, I need more.

I admit it – panicking a bit now.

Last week a restaurateur friend of mine offered to walk the streets with me (literally!), restaurant-to-restaurant, in search of 'Jar 1.7L'.

If you'd like to know how this story ends ... see you at the show.”

“Nosce Te Ipsum” – (“Know Thyself”): 15 Nov-23 Dec 2006. Art & Design Gallery, University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield, England.

<http://lorraineclarke.bulldoghome.com>

Funded by Arts Council England.

Euroart has open studios in October. Friday 6 October: open studios at Euroart Studios, 784 High Road, N17. Meet the artists in their studios and buy original art. 42 studios – an eclectic mix of quality arts and crafts.

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Dismasted By Roger Wright

AFTER MANY COMPLAINTS and representations from the community and from all our councillors, the Council's planning department has rejected the application by all five mobile phone companies to raise thirty-two mobile phone masts on the new Arsenal football stadium.

The application has been rejected by the Council officers themselves without even bringing it before the East Area Planning committee for a vote. This suggests the Council considers it has good grounds for rejecting the application.

The joint application has been rejected on the grounds that the companies haven't provided any information on the overall impact of the masts. Each company provided information for its application only, as if the others

weren't there. This is one of the points we made in our submission. Unfortunately, this is unlikely to be the end of the matter as the mobile phone companies always appeal against refusal, on principle. On the other hand, they may get together and produce the information the Council requires and re-submit their application. So we are waiting to see what happens next.

On the other hand, since the old stadium is already being demolished, the ten masts that are mounted on it have to go somewhere. Three have already appeared on the old Arsenal building in Highbury Hill. We don't know where the others are going, so please keep your eyes open for any large cranes appearing soon in a street near you.

New Editor

HCNEWS HAS A new Editor – Robin Jarossi. Robin is a journalist and freelance magazine Editor and has been an HCA member for some years.

He says "I specialise in editing supplements for newspapers and magazines and writing about TV

programmes. Since I went freelance three years back I been pursuing fiction writing more seriously. I've finished a novel and am currently working on a third draft of it. I've completed three short stories."

Send him your articles or news via hcanews@hotmail.com.



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Highbury Community Association

The HCA represents 750 residents and businesses on all aspects of living and working in Highbury, Lower Holloway and Finsbury Park. Run by volunteers, it relies on donations. Send cheques to HCA Treasurer, 79 Highbury Hill, N5 1SX, made out to 'Highbury Community Association'.

Send letters or articles for next issue to
hcanews@hotmail.com or
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