

Arsenal: high hopes for new sports centre

ARSENAL HAS SUBMITTED new plans for the Queensland Road site in Holloway – this time including an indoor sports centre. Islington Council will be consulting with local residents and businesses on the scheme.

The sports centre would be a replacement for the JVC sports

centre at the old Highbury Stadium and a triumph for determined local residents and vocal Arsenal supporters who have been campaigning for a new sports centre for the local community with the backing of local MP Jeremy Corbyn and Mayor Boris Johnson.

Original plans for over 700 flats

across five tower blocks up to 21 stories high have been re-worked by architects CZWG. The four residential towers in the new plan vary from 10 to 15 storeys.

The new plans scrap the proposed cinema and cut parking from around 300 spaces to 179 parking spaces. As well as reducing the height of the proposed residential towers, Arsenal has reduced the number of car parking spaces from around 300 spaces to 179 parking spaces. The number of new homes remains at around 730, half of them “affordable”. ■

Tesco plans in Drayton Park

By Roger P Wright

BACK IN JANUARY, Islington Council’s East Area Planning Committee approved “change of use” for the ground floor of the new building in Drayton Park, opposite the end of Martineau Road.

In the original application by Arsenal Football Club to redevelop the various sites that make up the new stadium and its surrounds, this was going to be one of the Health Centres, along with one at the old stadium and one in Hornsey Street. These were to be operated by the local Primary Care Trust, but with their recent funding cuts and the new “enthusiasm” for Polyclinics in London, the PCT has declined to take up any of the Health Centres.

The Developers asked the Council to allow a change of use for the Health Centre space to “mixed use” commercial space and this was approved in January, but only for Office, Community, Retail or Restaurant use. Use as a Drinking Establishment was rejected. The operation of the unit is restricted by the Council to 7:00am to 11:00pm with deliveries forbidden between 10pm and 8am Monday to Friday and 10pm and 9am on Sundays and Bank holidays.

No more was heard about the likely use of the site until local residents received notice of a Licensing Application from Tesco’s for the site, now known as 71, Drayton Park. This would be a “Tesco Metro” like the one’s at Highbury Corner. Tesco’s have asked for an “off-sales” license to run from 6:00am to 11:00pm every day of the week. Of



WHAT THE TESCO’S IN DRAYTON PARK MIGHT LOOK LIKE

course, they will not actually be allowed to open for these hours as they are further restricted by the planning permission and the Sunday Trading laws which apply to shops of more than 250 square metres.

The date for the licensing hearing hasn’t been announced yet.

Highbury Community Association is interested in your opinion on having a Tesco in Drayton Park and what the Licensing hours should be. Some people believe that there are already too many branches of Tesco in and around Islington – there are at least five already – and that they are detrimental to existing shopping facilities. On the other hand, some people appreciate the additional convenience they can bring. In particular, this one will be selling drink near Drayton Park School and will attract additional custom on match days. There is also the question of how deliveries will be made at such an awkward road junction by Tesco’s lorries. ■

Please let us know what you think.

Sobell Saga

ISLINGTON COUNCIL HAS decided to proceed with its own proposal to redevelop the site of the Sobell Sports Centre and surrounding grounds.

The consultation process was deeply flawed and has caused a great deal of anger, with legal challenges likely. The Council sent out 60,000 consultation leaflets, but only consulted on three options which all involved demolishing the current Sobell Centre and redeveloping the site with a new sports centre and housing. All that was "consulted" on was the size of the Sports Centre and the amount of housing included. This "sham consultation" produced fewer than 1500 responses in total, while the Council completely ignored petitions with over 3,500 signatures against

demolishing the current building.

The Council claims that it would be cheaper to replace the building rather than refurbish it, but what they really mean is that it would be cheaper for them overall because they would get extra money from the new housing built on the site. It is not actually cheaper to replace the building rather than refurbish it, on a like-for-like basis.



Also with the current economic climate, we may find that the Council knocks down the old building and then can't afford to build the new one – and that would be a real disaster!

The plans have the new building being "open for business" only a few months before the 2012 Olympics, even if the building work runs to schedule. This means the facilities will not be available for the development of our competitors for the 2012 games either.

Whatever you think about the scheme, the current proposals have been "steamrollered" through by the Council "cabinet" in a very undemocratic manner. If you are concerned about this process, which could be applied to any other site or building owned by the Council, please pass your comments to your local councillors. ■

Future of Development in Islington

ISLINGTON COUNCIL HAS issued its "Core Strategy Issues and Options consultation document" with a closing date for comments of 3rd November.

This document is one of a series that will provide the policies for the future development of Islington and replace the current "Unitary Development Plan". This latest document seeks input on such matters as the number of houses that should be provided in Islington over the next 15-20 years, where they should go, how tall buildings should be, how health and education could be provided and so on. ■

HCA intends to make a submission. If you would like to take part, please contact us.

New HCA website

The Highbury Community Association website is undergoing a transformation over the coming weeks and months. It will have a new look, updated content and you as a resident will be able to submit stories. There are also plans for an online chat forum.

www.highburycommunity.org

Used to play violin, cello, or viola?

Learning and want to play with other adults?

HIGHBURY STRINGS is a friendly and encouraging group for late starters or rusty players wanting to get back into playing (from about grade 2, though you don't have to have done any exams).

If you've ever wished you'd never given up your violin (or viola or cello), now is your chance to start again. You don't have to be "good enough". We have easy parts for the less confident. This is the place to build up your confidence, improve your sight-reading, and simply enjoying playing as part of a group. We play good music and we have fun (even if it doesn't always sound too good!)

Sometimes, our conductor has brought in better string players and wind players to support us and we have even managed to do an ambitious Haydn Symphony or a Bach Orchestral Suite.

Sundays 7-9 pm, Highbury Roundhouse, 71 Ronalds Road, N5 1XB (just off Highbury Fields)
For more details contact Bill Ellington, 020 7354 0397, Ellingtonbill@aol.com



The London Medical Orchestra comes to Highbury

The London Medical Orchestra is a well-established orchestra which was set up in 1954 by refugee doctors and dentists from Europe. Among our former conductors are Norman Del Mar, Colin Davis and Bernard Keefe. Sir Adrian Boult and Jacqueline du Pré are among our past Vice Presidents.

There is no requirement for members to be in the medical or ancillary professions (and in fact very few of us are), but the Orchestra's main purpose continues to be supporting medical charities through fund-raising concerts. We do some of the orchestral greats, Mozart, Beethoven, Sibelius, Mendelssohn, Elgar, etc, and occasional lighter music, and perform concertos with up-and-coming soloists (see box).

The Orchestra recently moved from Marylebone, and we rehearse in Highbury Roundhouse. We like the community feel of Highbury, are now attracting more members from this area, and plan some community events together with the Roundhouse, such as a Viennese-type Ball next February.

Recruiting Now!

If you are or were a Grade 7 plus string player, we like to welcome you to come along to play with the us. There is no audition, and if you're lacking in confidence you can find your feet at the back of the section. We have professional leaders of each string section to guide sensitively and encouragingly. However because the cello section is almost full we can only welcome confident cellists of Grade 8 plus. Fees are £60 per term, £30 concessions.

Enquiries [07732 407310](tel:07732407310) Lonmedorc2@aol.com
Website www.lmo.org.uk

Next Concert:

Sunday December 7th

St Mary's Brookfield, Dartmouth Park Hill,
Tufnell Park Tube

Beethoven: Leonora Overture

Beethoven: Eroica Symphony

Brahms: Violin Concerto

Soloist: Tamsin Waley-Cohen

"The most exceptionally gifted young violinist
I have ever encountered" Ruggiero Ricci



Is the credit crunch a green gift?

THE CREDIT CRUNCH has a surprising plus – it could breathe new energy into our neighbourhood. That's the message from the organizers of Highbury's first CLIMATE CHANGE & ME festival who want to empower people to become more energy-efficient, save cash and have fun tackling climate change.

Highbury Fields School, Drayton Park School and Islington Council's Green Living Centre are running the ambitious free family festival on Saturday 11 October, with more events each evening the following week. Highlights include talks from TV's anti-waste expert Penney Poyzer, local 'lazy environmentalist' Polly Higgins, and sustainable fashion expert Dilys Williams who knows how to look good without harming the planet.

"It's something different, at a time when people are really struggling to meet bills," says co-ordinator Nicola Baird, and co-author of Save Cash & Save the Planet (Collins). "We hope the festival will show the myriad ways of keeping your home cosy this winter at the same time as cutting your household's carbon dioxide emissions. Most of us still emit more than 10 tonnes a year of carbon dioxide, but in order to make sure that the world doesn't warm up by more than two degrees we need to slash this to a maximum of six tones. It's a hard task, but much easier to do if you live and work locally, keep your air miles down, insulate and choose UK-grown seasonal food."

For a week from Monday 13 October there will also be films, talks and a clothes swap. Expect a crowd for Tuesday 14 October when Orlando Jopling introduces the film about Modbury where the plastic bag free trend started, Message in the Waves..

Jopling's determination to tackle rubbish and waste near his home led to the 46 shops at Newington Green going plastic bag free back in July. Even the local Tesco store traded for the launch week without giving out a single plastic bag.

Remembering to take a cloth bag out shopping – or saying no to a plastic bag at the shops – may not tackle



climate change, but it has some major benefits claims Jopling who convinced more than 1,000 residents to pledge to give up plastic bags and in just one week stopped 20,000 more plastic bags getting into our homes, littering our streets and then chucked out into landfill. See how Jopling did it at www.plasticbagfreenewingtongreen.com.

The organizers of the CLIMATE CHANGE & ME festival hope that at least three individuals will be inspired by Jopling's plastic bag free initiative to make Finsbury Park, Highbury Barn and Highbury Corner plastic bag free.

Totnes, not far from Modbury, is another Devon town that has inspired the world to tackle over consumption and dependence on climate-changing fossil fuels. The Transition Town movement, as discussed in a recent edition of HCA news, is a local community response

to rising energy costs, peak oil and climate change. In Totnes they've planted nut trees and printed their own money. In Lewes, Sussex, they are developing a community car club, working with businesses to help save money as they go green, and are prioritising ways to reduce the community's energy use.

London hasn't been left out of the trend. On 2 October Brixton was due to unleash its own Transition Town model. There are also Transition Town groups at Tooting and Kingston. Could Highbury be next?

The CLIMATE CHANGE AND ME festival has three events for people curious about transition towns. There's workshop on Saturday 11 October with Debbie Warrener who is exploring how to have more fun in your street; then on Wednesday 15 Oct the film The End of Suburbia followed by a discussion with Duncan Law from Brixton Transition Town; and to close the event on Thursday 16 Oct a film about the Power of Community – how Cuba coped with the oil blockade so successfully – followed by a discussion led by the Green Living Centre's Mark Donaldson.

To wind up the festival there will be a car boot sale at Drayton Park Primary School on Sunday 19 Oct giving everyone a chance to chuck out unwanted stuff or pick up a treasure at bargain prices. ■

For more info see www.climatechangeandme.blogspot.com. If you want to offer help please contact nicolabaird@compuserve.com.

DIARY

Sat 11 Oct – Films, talks and clothes swaps from 6-9pm at Highbury Fields School, Highbury Hill, N5 1AR. Snacks on sale.

Mon 13 Oct – Al Gore's classic film, An Inconvenient Truth

Tues 14 Oct – Go plastic bag free with Message in the Waves and Orlando Jopling

Wed 15 Oct – Watch The End of Suburbia with Duncan Law from

Transition Town Brixton OR bring a posh piece of clothing you no longer wear and join a SWISH clothes swap. (7-.8.45pm)

Thurs 16 Oct – Watch Power of Community OR get practical advice how to green your office in a talk from Friends of the Earth (7-8pm)

Sun 19 Oct – CAR BOOT SALE at Drayton Park Primary School, Arvon Road, N5 1PJ. Sellers 9am, buyers 10am.

Summer Festivities Gillespie Festival

By Beth Moir

TEN MINUTES OF rain in 22 years is not a bad record for the Gillespie Festival last month; the weather was certainly not a disappointment this year as we had a bright and sunny afternoon, something of a surprise bearing in mind the poor weather this summer and the forecast for heavy rain earlier in the week.

HCA had a stall to recruit new members and generate funds by selling second hand books. In all we collected £95. It was nice that a variety of members helped on the stall. It was good fun and gave us the opportunity to talk to lots of local people.

There was a delightful mixture of stalls selling goods including home-grown flowers and herbs and handmade cards and aprons, or publicising their organisation, a raffle, auction of a signed Arsenal shirt, music on the main stage as well as The Acoustic Cafe band. Events for



children proved very popular as usual. The Organic Cafe did a roaring trade in the Ecology Centre, and small stalls dotted about were selling delicious hot and cold homemade food.

Some of us took the rare opportunity to have a look round the Quill Street allotments (pity there aren't more) and to talk to the allotment holders.

All in all it was a charming and delightful afternoon with something to suit all members of the community. ■

New book from local author

LOCAL AUTHOR TOM Rubens has recently published a book on philosophy, entitled 'Progressive Secular Society.' It is in fact his fourth published work in the field of philosophy.

In this text, he seeks to define what makes a secular and humanistic culture a progressive one: that is, what makes it conducive to maximising human wellbeing and constructive, creative relationships and activities. The subject-matter is eclectic, examining a range of topics, including ethics, literature, science, economics and social action.

Its format and its focus on

secularism and humanism link it with his previous philosophical works. These are:- 'Minority Achievement in an Evolutionary Perspective' (1984); 'Spinozan Power in a Naturalistic Perspective' (1996, but soon to be re-issued); and 'A Liberalism Cautious But Active' (2002). His secular outlook is also conveyed in a selection of poems entitled 'The Deepening Foreground', published in 2006.

He is currently working on another book of philosophy, which he hopes will be completed by next Spring. ■

Anyone who would like to buy a copy of 'Progressive Secular Society' should e-mail Tom on tr015o2880@blueyonder.co.uk or phone 020 7690 9896.

Blackstock Road Festival

BLACKSTOCK ROAD CAME alive with music, entertainment and great food as the community came together for a day of fun at the Festival of the Senses on Sunday, 10 August.

The festival organised by FinFuture aimed to bring the local business community and residents together

to celebrate the improvements since the Police Raids earlier in the year.

FinFuture is a Charitable Trust that works with the people and organisations in N4 to bring about improvements to enhance the lives of people living and working in the area. 'Events such as this play an important part in promoting civic pride and we hope this is something we can do each year', said Carol Kennedy, Town Manager and Festival Organiser. But this depends on securing funding. ■

School opens a can of worms

By Alan Ward, headmaster

LAST MONTH (SEPTEMBER) St John's School, Highbury took delivery of a 'Can of Worms' which we will be using along with the Micro Gardening and Growing System to set up a Micro Food Farm over the next few weeks. .

This will enable children throughout the school to be involved in an environmental project involving recycling and sustainability and growing of produce.

The children will begin growing potatoes, carrots, and runner beans from seed plus mushrooms; and next year they plan to grow fruits such as strawberries. The Micro Farm will recycle our school kitchen and paper waste.

The £500 grant from the Association covered the cost of the can of worms purchased on-line from West Country Worms. As well as other equipment for the Mirco Farm. The money will also be used for gardening tools, plants and bulbs for the children's gardening club to use in the school grounds.

Can we say a big thank you to the Highbury Community Association for their very generous gift which has enabled this project to happen. We will keep you informed of the development of this project, also updating you on the produce we grow as the project develops. ■

Collaborating on trees: community involvement in plans for Highbury Fields

By Gill Shepherd (HCA) and Robin Hull (HFA)



THIS SUMMER, HIGHBURY Fields Association and Highbury Community Association joined forces and produced a fully illustrated, thirty page booklet entitled Highbury Fields Trees. We have been pro-active in showing the local community groups' continuing interest in participating in decision-making and caring for the park and we expect that this document will be used by Greenspace officers and by consultants engaged on plans for the park that concern the trees. In particular it is a response to Islington Council's 2007 Vision for Highbury Fields, published by the Council after long consultation. Our publication, with its thirty recommendations, has already contributed to the tree strategy for Highbury Fields currently under discussion.

In some areas, gaps in lines of planes need to be filled. In others, past over-dense planting will encroach on the much-loved openness of the park and some tree removal may be needed. There are also some more immediate problems: dogs stripping bark from trees and damage caused by grass trimming strimmers which wound the bark at the base of the trees and allow rot to set in. Both risk killing healthy trees

The booklet is available in electronic format, Highbury Fields Trees.pdf. It is too expensive for a large print-run because it contains many colour photographs. However, if you would like a copy, you can download it from the HCA website at www.highburycommunity.org or ask for it from Gill Shepherd at gillshepherd@compuserve.com and she will email it to you. ■

CALIGARI CABINETS

Bespoke fitted furniture
Tailored to your taste and interior

www.caligari-cabinets.co.uk

07976 417 227

THE CLOCK CAFE

TRUE ITALIAN STYLE COFFEE

HOMEMADE AND LOCALLY SOURCED SPECIALS

FRESH SALADS

FANTASTIC CHUNKY SANDWICHES

ORGANIC AND FAIRTRADE ICECREAMS



Highburyvintners

Independent wine store

New extended shop
Wine club & tasting events
Over 900 wines & specialist beers
Top quality service & advice
Free delivery to N4, N5 & N16

71 Highbury Park, N5 1UA

020 7226 1347

www.highburyvintners.co.uk

FIVE BOYS

Drug & Health Food Store

17 Highbury Park, N5 1QJ. Tel 020 7359 3623

Organic & Non-Organic • Food/Baby Products

Toiletries • Household Products

Aromatherapy • Homeopathy

Herbal Remedies • Eco Friendly Products

Organic Fresh Fruit and vegetables

Do you have three hours to spare five times a year?

Would you like to help in the production of
this newsletter?

Help is urgently needed with the printing of the

Highbury Community News. Tuition given. If we cannot get it printed we cannot produce a newsletter. For more information please phone Ali Carmichael on 020 7359 5731

And we also need a permanent editor. If you would like to pull together all the items for the newsletter, please get in touch with one of the committee members.

Say Cheese at La Fromagerie



PATRICIA MICHELSON,
FOUNDER OF LA FROMAGERIE

PATRICIA MICHELSON'S LOVE of cheese began up a mountain whilst she was skiing in Meribel. She returned to London in 1991 after a nasty fall, with a wheel of Beaufort Chalet d'Alpage, a gruyere, which she sold from her garden shed. She worked up to selling cheese from a stall in Camden market a year later. La Fromagerie now comprises two award winning shops and a wholesale business. Patricia has also written an award winning book 'The Cheese Room'. She also lectures on cheese and wine pairing for Christies Wine Education courses.

La Fromagerie has three more tasting events in Highbury this year. On Thursday 23 October La Fromagerie will host a Normandy Tasting highlighting Autumn produce. The evening which costs £25, will begin with an aperitif of Pommeau, followed by a tasting of Normandy cheeses paired with beer and wine. The tasting will end with a classic Tarte Tatin.

On Thursday 20 November, Beaujolais Nouveau starts in a classic French pairing with cheeses to celebrate the end of the harvest – the vin de l'année. The £15 tutored tasting session starts with a glass of Kir.

In December (date to be confirmed) La Fromagerie will be hosting a 'Mountain style' tasting with a festive mulled wine and roast chestnuts. The £25 tasting will focus on mountain cheeses from the classic Vacherin du Mont d'Or including the cheese shop's signature cheese that started the whole thing off, Beaufort Chalet d'Alpage. The tasting will finish with Christmas sweetmeats including homemade mincepies.

Most events are standing, but benches can be provided on request. ■

Recipe: Baked Vacherin

Wrap a small or medium boxed cheese in foil and place it on the middle shelf of your oven at 180°C / 350°F / Gas Mark 4. Bake it for 20 minutes, then remove the foil and the lid of the box.

Carefully cut out a circle around the crust and lift it off to reveal the cheese. Swirl in a little fruity white wine (not Chardonnay, rather a sauvignon blanc or, better still, a Savoie wine such as Chignin), and dip bite-sized steamed new potatoes into it.

Serve it with a green salad dressed with walnut oil, thinly sliced charcuterie, tiny cornichons and maybe some tiny sweet and sour onions.

Don't be tempted to add any other ingredients to the cheese, such as herbs, as they will detract from its own flavour.

La Fromagerie, 30 Highbury Park, N5 2AA

www.lafromagerie.co.uk

moxon@lafromagerie.co.uk




30 Highbury Park
London N5 2AA
Tel/Fax 7359 7440
www.lafromagerie.co.uk
Also at
2-4 Moxon Street
W1U 4EW



**WOODLAND
HARDWARE LIMITED**
HARDWARE FOR THE HOME & GARDEN - KEYS CUT -
LOCKS SUPPLIED AND FITTED - HOUSEWARES - LIGHT
BULBS - TOOLS - PLUMBING & ELECTRICAL GOODS -
LOCKSMITH SERVICES AVAILABLE
20 Highbury Park N5 2AB
Tel: 7354 5029 Fax: 7354 5034
Email: sales@woodlandhardwareltd.com

cinnamon village
Your Local organic food store
Café & Sandwich Bar
109 Highbury Park London N5 2UB
T: 020 7354 3900 F: 7354 3841

DA : MARIO
Highbury Barn
At the heart of Highbury since the 1960s
Come and see what's new
Artisan Italian & French Patisserie Counter
Italian & French Fresh Sausages
And now also Organic fruit, veg, salad,
pasta, baby food, dairy produce at sensible
prices to help you buy ethical
Our hams, salamis and cheese are of such
quality that if you can buy better let us know
020 7226 2317



HCA Highbury Community Association
The HCA represents 780 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, HCA, PO Box 43396, N5 9AD, made out to 'Highbury Community Association'. Send letters or articles for next issue to hcanews@hotmail.com or Highbury Community Association, PO Box 43396, London N5 9AD. Visit www.highburycommunity.org
© HCA 2008. Printed & published by HCA, PO Box 43396, N5 9AD