

# About Bowes Park

## AUTUMN 2009

The New River Tunnel 150 years Festival had music, magic, food, games, an exhibition and lots of fun. Hurrah for Bowes Park!



### Myddleton Road Community Garden

What a jolly fun time we had at our annual garden picnic and 150 Festival. The day dawned bright and sunny. There was music, magic, cakes & cookies and lots of fun, fun, fun .... Our heartfelt thanks to all the people who came and enjoyed the garden, and especially to the volunteers who gave up valuable time to make it a success.

This year, we added a fabulous piece of mosaic art to the garden. Our special thanks goes to the local mosaic artist, Miranda Andrea who project managed the artwork in her workshop located at Bowes Park Station. Matt Cooke, our

### *Give or Take Day*

The BPCA, Enfield Council and Haringey Freecycle are holding another Give or Take Day on Saturday, 24 October at Bounds Green School, Bounds Green Road.

The last one was a great success with an enormous amount of re-usable stuff that would otherwise have been thrown away, or left in someone's garage or attic, given to a home where it could be used. Things included electrical items (with plugs only please), clothes, garden tools, books, CDs and DVDs.

Bring any unwanted items between 11am and 1pm then take anything that you want away with you between 1 and 3pm. Any enquiries, look at the BPCA website, or call 020 8379 1790.

local Labour Councillor officially unveiled the fantastic butterfly mosaic Check it out, it's hanging on the wall of the Tile Shop! Oh and by the way... we are delighted to announce that for yet another year, our garden has been awarded a GREEN PENNANT. The Award recognises all the efforts volunteers and the community make in maintaining the communal garden in its fantastic condition. Let's keep up the good work and enjoy. If you would like to find out more about getting involved, please come to the garden the first Saturday of each month at 11am and meet the team.

*Asha Patel*



### Finsbury Gardens

The work put into improving Finsbury Gardens over the past few years has led to a greatly increased use of the Gardens. The new seats are in constant use by old and young, the flowerbed flourished and has given welcome colour during the entire year. Birthdays have been celebrated, *boules* have been played, suntans have been topped up, babies rocked to sleep, the elderly have been caught having 40 winks, slides have been slid down and climbing walls scaled. And endless games of football have been played with the occasional cricket game hotly contested. Then there was our big, exciting 150 years Festival of the New River Tunnel that brought the local community together for a really fun day. All in all I hope those who have invested time and effort reclaiming the gardens for all-round community use are pleased with the progress we have made.

Naturally there is more. The Edwardian railings need urgent attention, a planning

Newsletter of the

# **BowesPark**

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



group to try and raise money to refurbish the football area needs to be formed in order to bid for the necessary funds. Any volunteers out there? If so contact Kate please.

In the short term we are planning to have a Spring Bulb planting and clean-up day on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November. We will start at 10.30. If you can spare an hour or two to improve our neighbourhood please come along. Gloves, secateurs, spade, fork if you have them would help us along. We also hope to plant bulbs in Hidden River Path so we will need lots of helpers. Children are particularly welcome and always enjoy planting bulbs which will appear miraculously in Spring.

Our Carol singing is planned for Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 6.O.p.m. This is the third year and each year it grows a little larger. Bring a torch, and why not ask your neighbours and friends to come along to the Gardens for a really nice start to the Christmas Holiday Season. Mince pies and hot toddy welcome. Last year we managed to secure a wonderful lead singer and some musicians. Will you volunteer to lead the singing this year? If so please contact Kate on 0208 888 1689

Finally I need to thank Mark who checks daily that the playground is open and locked at the correct times and keeps the playground from being vandalised.

*Kate Franzmann, Friends of Finsbury Gardens*

**Join the BPCA. Membership forms at Red Sea Supermarket or online at [www.bowespark.org.uk](http://www.bowespark.org.uk)**

**10th Birthday Party and AGM on November 26th at St Michael's**

Congratulations to BPCA on its tenth birthday! Thank you for asking me to write about the achievements of the last ten years. We don't want to focus on the past but for recent members and residents it may be a new story.

Ten years ago, angry residents and local business people gathered in the nursery on Whittington Road after two local women, the legendary Pam and Pat, had put out leaflets in the area calling us to action. It was packed. People were angry but there was humour in the situation because the only seating was tiny children's chairs which gave a bizarre edge to the event!

**What were people angry about? :**

- Rubbish in the streets
- Traffic rat running in the area
- The local station-completely run down-graffiti, drugs, rubbish strewn
- The demise of Myddleton Road from a shopping centre to a run down street where businesses such as butchers and bakers had gone and been replaced by businesses which were inappropriate for the area - a skip business had taken over the street by the New River, fork lift trucks made the pavements dangerous and large loads were swung from lorry to pavement. Unauthorised development without planning permission was being used to house people in unsafe and overcrowded conditions. It felt like an area that was going downhill fast and people were too fond of Bowes Park and, in many cases, had lived here too long to let that happen.

After the meeting, BPCA was formed. It was an interesting community group. We knew that just being angry did not get you far and that we needed to have a plan of what we wanted to achieve and to know who to work with in partnership to make that happen. A long piece of wallpaper was rolled across the floor and at one end we put where we are now and at the other where we want to get to.

**Where did we want to get to?**

- We wanted the station cleaner, a more welcoming place where people did not feel afraid
- Cleaner streets and traffic calming
- A new approach to Myddleton Road
- A community garden on the piece of waste land opposite the New River
- To build a community that cared about where we lived and where people felt they could talk to neighbours and feel safe.

**What has changed?**

A lot! After hundreds of hours of meetings with many different people and organisations, after many reports and reviews and consultations, thousands of phone calls and letters and emails...and the dedication, commitment and hard work of local people, I am pleased to say that most of the things we aimed for have been achieved.

**So what next?** How about another wallpaper exercise? What do local people want to achieve over the next ten years? Let's be bold and think about exactly what we want in the area where we live. We have:

- Two fantastic community gardens with groups of dedicated volunteers looking after them.
  - All sorts of social activities and a walking group
- Is this enough? It takes hard work to keep these things going. This year's Festival in the gardens was a wonderful event but very demanding on the volunteers who organised them.

**Or is there another step to take?** One of the things that we did not achieve was the regeneration of Myddleton road as a place where artists and craftspeople could have studios - it was recommended in one report - but we did get an artist's studio on the station where Miranda runs mosaic workshops. Haringey Council has invested a lot of money in Myddleton Road in recent years – pavement, lighting (and thanks to Cllrs Cooke and Demirci for their hard work and support) and English Heritage and the



Looking around in 2001

Council will be investing in restoring some of the shop fronts.

**Should we be building on this investment and be looking at trying to develop a community business?** It's a thought but would need even more hard work and it may be a step too far. That's up to us all to decide. And I encourage everyone to come to the AGM and join in another wallpaper exercise - Bowes Park-the next ten years!

**One last point.** Ten years ago people at the Enfield end of Bowes Park were getting a better service from their council than Haringey residents. Many of our members in the Enfield area now feel that situation has been reversed. A good example is that the traffic calming in the area was not only designed to cut traffic but also to improve the look of the area and a vital part of that was to improve the part of Whittington Road that runs across the New River . If you look at the area around Finsbury Gardens you can see what a difference it can make. Enfield is now not going to do that piece of work. What a wasted opportunity! Should BPCA be putting much more pressure on Enfield?

**Bowes Park is a great place to live and to work.** Many people have contributed to the community over the last ten years. There has been lots of emotion - anger, fun, pride, and achievement. Everyone has something to offer even if it's only an hour of his or her time. Most importantly, we get to know each other and build a sense of community. In times of economic hardship this feeling that people are trying to work together and help each other is more important than ever.



### Beechyheads turn up trumps!

On Saturday 25 April, Bowes Park community members pitted their wits against each other as they went head to head in the annual community quiz night held at the Bowes Park Bowls & Tennis Club in Bounds Green – and what a night it was!

With quiz questions from the quirky to the cute, over 90 challengers were put through their paces as they exercised their grey matter to find the answers to questions ranging from sport and books to local history and naming pasta shapes.

After ten rounds, broken by a tasty ploughman's supper, this year's winning team was announced as 'Beechyhead'. They scored the most points and gave the 'Elvendon Experts' and 'Do We Have a Name?', who came in as a close joint second, a run for their money.

The evening raised over £280 for the Association's work in the community and the generous support of local traders enabled a further £141 to be raised in the raffle for the community gardens on Myddleton Road and Finsbury Road. All prizes were donated and included a meal for two, a three-month gym membership, plant and flower arrangements, beauty treatment and much more. The winning tickets were drawn by local Councillor Matt Cooke. Many thanks to all involved in another successful BPCA evening.

*Nicki Della Porta*

### Plastic bags

If you still use plastic carrier bags – don't throw them away – re-use and recycle. Red Sea Supermarket in Myddleton Road has a special dispenser for re-useable bags. Please do take yours there. Only clean undamaged bags please.

*10th Birthday Nov 26th*

## Planning Matters

The area had some more wins on the planning front.

The Planning Inspector has dismissed the appeal by **17 Whittington Rd**. The owner now has 9 months to return it from 6 flats to a family house.

The Planning Inspector also dismissed the appeal on **Christopher Place**, Myddleton Rd. The owner has six months to comply with planning permission and turn it from 5 units to 3. **143 Myddleton Rd** (actually in Whittington Rd) planning permission refused for a take away.

**6-8 Whittington Rd** have removed their external shutters and put them behind the windows – so much better.

**38 Lascotts Rd** permission refused to convert to 3 flats.

**129 and 131 Palmerston Rd** (Enfield) are a pair of unspoilt late Victorian, large detached houses. They should be listed not mistreated. Permissions are being sought to demolish and redevelop 129 and to turn 131 into 6 flats with lots of extensions. If you feel these applications should be refused, do write to Enfield Planning Dept Haringey has one of the UK's largest losses of family houses through conversion into flats. Enough! Families need houses with gardens for kids to play in and for people to grow flowers, fruit and vegetables – just the sort of houses our area has. New policies restrict such conversions in some areas. Excellent! Please, Haringey and Enfield Planning Departments, refuse any more conversions as they create pressures on the local community and damage the housing stock.

### Best feet forward...

The Walking Group has been having a good year – more walks, more walkers and more sunshine. Two summer evening local walks ending at pubs were held (actually most walks include a pub or tea room!), and there have been two weekday walks, one from Bayford to Cuffley and the other down the Lea Valley from Broxbourne to Cheshunt – thanks to James Francis for organising those.

Of the monthly weekend walks, the January one was rained off and those in February and March were on rather grey days (although still enjoyable), but since then from April to September we have been spectacularly lucky with the weather. We ventured up the Metropolitan line to the Chess Valley for a walk that featured woods, fields, a river and the chance to buy watercress. Making use of the railway line we had another varied walk from Watton at Stone to Hertford North and in the woods near Bayford. Hadley Woods in spring were beautiful, and the southern part of the Lea Valley was full of interest, as was the September walk along the south bank of the Thames, across Tower



Through a bean field to the River Beane Bridge to Wapping and Canary Wharf. Several walks had 15 participants, though there are usually lower numbers in the summer when people are away and have more days out.

Walks are planned for October 25th (local) and November 27th (in the City) and everyone is welcome. In June and December we have a social and meeting to plan the next six months, and then there will be another New Year's Day walk ...

*Catharine Perry 8881 8422.*

### Handyman Site

The BPCA started a website last year for people to find local services. So far, you can use it to find painters and decorators, an electrician, a plumber and builder, someone to make your curtains or blinds, a company to help you 'green' your home, and a body and beauty therapist.

If you are looking for a service, first check out the BPCA website, and if you know of someone you think should be put on the website, let Lionel know at [bowespark@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:bowespark@tiscali.co.uk)



## New River Mural

In the spring newsletter we told you we had plans to paint a mural on the wall leading to Bowes Park station. Owing to objections from a resident who looks out onto this wall we switched sites. **Well Done** Jade, Hannah, Harley, Ismail, Cem, Dalvi, Katie and Roots, who have transformed the big metal gates by the New River in Myddleton Road. Thanks to community artist Charlotte Gerrard, Thames Water for permission, and Haringey Council for a Making the Difference grant that made this possible.

## BPCA jobs to be done. What skills do you have? What would you like to do?

Newsletter editor and layout  
Membership  
Email communications  
Quiz evening  
Take minutes at meetings  
Events Chair meetings

Fundraising  
Planning comments  
Keeping the money safe and straight  
Give or Takes  
Police liaison  
Be a 'road rep' Make cakes

## Traffic

Most of the traffic calming measures paid for by Transport for London to make our residential streets less infested with cars rat-running off the North Circular have now been done. There are teething problems, but on the whole the changes have improved life for many residents. Still to be done: planting around Finsbury Gardens, the end of Trinity Road, the missing feature at north end of Whittington. Problems: still heavy traffic on Palmerston, lots of cars now doing illegal U-turns at end of Clarence and many still turning right illegally from Whittington. Haringey Council and the Traffic police have said they will look at additional measures at Whitt/Bounds Green Rd junction.

We understand that Haringey has dropped its previous objections to a weight restriction on any traffic coming into our residential area on the roads which cover both boroughs. Write to your local council if you would like a weight restriction brought in – there is now a good chance that we will get one at last.

## Thank You

**Many thanks** for all their work for our community to:

**Everyone who helped in any way with the 150th Festival**

**All Mural Painters and Mosaic Makers, and Charlotte and Miranda**

**All Gardeners on the Community Garden and Finsbury Gardens and The Hidden River Path**

**Vladek the gentleman from Russell Road** who keeps the New River Path tidy and puts up and removes full bin bags of cans and rubbish and the **New River Path tidy uppers**

**Nicki and helpers for the Quiz**

**Haringey Neighbourhood Management** for their help on many matters. Goodbye Kate Garner and Good Luck.

**Tony Healey and Haringey Parks Dept** for help on the gardens.

**AND NO THANKS TO**

**All the dirty dog owners** who dont clear up their dog's mess

**People who eat and drink** by the lovely New River Path and then make a mess of it by leaving all their empties

**The person who stole the memorial plaque from the Community Garden**

## Diary Dates

**Sat October 24th**

Give and Take Day  
(07841 457243)

**Thurs November 26th**

BPCA 10th Birthday  
Party and AGM

**Sunday Nov 15th**

Finsbury Gardening

**Sunday Dec 20th**

Finsbury Carols

**First Sat each month**

gardening in Myddleton

**Saturday Feb 13th**

Valentine's Ceilidh  
(Barn Dance)

## Our Safer Neighbourhood

Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams: Haringey 07920 233787 or 7161 8473  
Enfield: 07920 233784 or 8721 2679

**Safer Neighbourhood Teams' Police Surgeries, Enfield and Haringey:**

7th Oct, 12th Nov and 9th Dec. 17.00 to 19.00 at Bounds Green Tube

**Calling all Young People** - The Metropolitan Police are conducting an anonymous online survey to find out what You think about the police, what Your issues and worries and needs are. The information will be used by your Safer Neighbourhoods police teams to help make your community a safer place. It takes just a few minutes, is completely anonymous, and can help make a positive difference to where you live and go to school.

<http://www.met.police.uk/youngpeople/>

## Bowes Park Community Association

c/o 9 Whittington Road, Bowes Park, London N22 8YS

Chair: Caroline Simpson (8881 9386) Sec: Lukie Hewat

(BPCA.lukie@virgin.net) Treas': Marguerite Canuti (8211 9885)

C'ttee Members: Karl Sweeney, Teresa Beattie, Brian O'Reilly, Kate Franzmann.