

BowesPark

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT



New River Tunnel exhibition on view in Myddleton Road



Just a fraction of the items given to the April Give or Take

November 2008 - October 2009

Introduction, The Festival and Thank You's

2009 has been a celebration of the past - our local history and built heritage - and also of the present - our vibrant community and local spirit. It has been an even busier year for the BPCA, even more local people have been involved in one way or another, and thanks are due to so many.

150 years Festival

The main focus of much of our work was the 150 years Festival for our New River Tunnel. It is one thing to have a bright idea, and then another to write a funding application which is successful, but then it is quite another thing to carry out all the tasks to make the idea a reality. It is this realisation that called upon so many of the skills and so much time from our members and friends. The reports from the two gardens groups tell part of the story, and Kate and Charlotte worked like Trojans, but there was and is much more. The BPCA now has a 9 panel exhibition about the tunnel and the river, which shows a feature of the area of which many people were unaware. This was on display in Myddleton Road on the railings, unguarded for 16 days and was not damaged or vandalised in any way - a great tribute to the general decency and good behaviour of local people. Thanks to Daniel Scottow for art and design, to many archivists and sources and to the Red Sea Supermarket for helping and storing at night when on display. The wonderful posters and flyers for the Festival were designed by Jim Friedman. Kate Franzmann and I have been working on a teaching resource for Nightingale School so the information and materials we gathered for the exhibition will be used by hundreds, or even thousands of local children. Katherine Gallagher, a local poet, will be soon be judging a Poetry Competition involving Nightingale and Bounds Green schools. Charlotte Gerrard worked with some local children to create the lovely mural, which tells the viewer so much about the life and ecology of the river. Cathy Herman is pulling together all the information for a formal Evaluation Report on the Festival which will be most useful in any future funding applications. The main festival was made possible by a Grassroots Grant from the Office of the Third Sector as managed by East London Community Foundation, and the Mural by a Making the Difference grant from Haringey. My personal thanks to all I have named and dozens of others unnamed who helped make the Festival such a success, and I am sure that the BPCA and all local residents join me in this.

..... and the rest of the year's work

The 150th was not the only fun had this year. Thanks to Nicki Della Porter and helpers we had another great Quiz night. Bowes Park residents and some friends further afield have walked many happy miles on jaunts organised by Catharine Perry. Led by Lydia and Charlotte in the community garden and Kate Franzmann in Finsbury many people have had enjoyable gardening sessions all of which have a very positive visual impact, even if a few sore backs and knees.

While fun and interesting events were being planned and executed the more pedestrian work of the BPCA carried on. In addition to (too many) meetings planning the festival we had regular committee meetings every six weeks. We have not had a special public meeting this year, but more people contact the BPCA by phone and email with their problems, or talk to us at the Give or Takes and other events so we feel that this should not have been missed. Thousands of emails have whizzed through the sky, hundreds of phone calls made and many dozens of letters posted on behalf of the association on all the various issues that we try to cover to make our area a better and happier place to live and work.

We have continued to receive much help from Tony Healey and other staff of Haringey Parks department who not only mow grass and clear leaves, but help with our lovely open spaces throughout the year in many other ways. Haringey Neighbourhood Management has again been most helpful with many matters from advice over form filling to sorting out street problems - Thanks especially to Kate Garner and Beverley Stevens. We say Thank You and GoodBye to Kate who was manager of our NM for some years as has moved back to Shropshire. Many other council officials from both councils have helped us with information and advice over the year. John Liddard has long been our main contact and friend at Thames Water and he has been most helpful this year despite staff shortages. The personal contacts that the BPCA has with local

officials is most helpful, and the association is respected for the positive and pro-active attitude that it has to the local area.

The BPCA is not a one-woman or one-man band, and nothing could happen without the committee and its members. The most invisible person is Father Robert who beavers away keeping our website up to date and handy. There was a hosting glitch a few months ago but now all sorted – Thank you Father Robert. Charlotte Argyle who has been secretary and much more for the Garden Group is also passing the trowel. Thank you Charlotte for all your hard work and cheerfulness over many years. My thanks to all members of our committee who have helped with many aspects of the work and the thinking needed. Our Treasurer, Marguerite, has had a very demanding year not only with extra finance paper work due to the festival, but she has also moved house out of the area. We are very sorry that she has left Bowes Park, and that she is not standing again, but give very many thanks for her clear and meticulous work. Our Secretary Lukie has also dealt with thousands of incoming mails and has been wonderful at keeping us all in touch. She also has new commitments and is standing down. Thank you Lukie for all your work and friendly and helpful replies to members and non-members alike.

.... and the next

When I moved into Bowes Park from Canterbury in October 1999 just about the first piece of paper through the door was asking local residents to a meeting to discuss the area. I went along to the Nursery and sat on a tiny chair – the room was packed and it was a very lively meeting. That night the BPCA was formed and, strongly believing in the power of local associations to improve their areas, I joined its committee. I have enjoyed it so much that I would have serious withdrawal symptoms if I stopped being involved in some way so I hope I will be re-elected to the committee, but after three years as Chair I feel that new blood and new ways would be good for the association and me and so I am not standing again as Chair. I have learnt lots, made more friends, felt proud of achievements and irritated by obstacles. I do hope that some current committee members will stay on, and that more members, new and old, will step forward. There are lots of tasks to do, and many can be done without meetings and committee structures, but I believe that an effective committee is what the BPCA will continue to need. I look forward to the events and directions of 2010, and playing whatever part seems useful and sensible. Thank you all for your help in a myriad of ways over the last three years, and I am sure you will give whoever takes over as Chair, and the rest of the committee, the same encouragement as you have given me.

Caroline Simpson
Chair, Bowes Park Community Association

Bowes Park Community Garden Group

It's been another busy and successful year for the Bowes Park Community Garden. The garden group kept busy over the winter of 2008 creating a beautiful butterfly mosaic for the garden. Miranda Andrea, a local mosaic artist and member of the garden group, led on the project at her studio on Bowes Park railway station. Local residents attended a series of sessions with her, to learn about the mosaic technique and create the butterfly. The mosaic was mounted on a side wall overlooking the garden. Thanks to everyone involved, including all the local residents who helped to create and mount the mosaic, the staff of Elite bathrooms for giving the mosaic wall space, and of course Miranda for leading the project.

The mosaic was officially unveiled at the community picnic on 13 June which was the high point of the year. The picnic was part of the festival to celebrate 150 years of the New River Tunnel in Bowes Park, and also the Open Garden Squares Weekend. It was a great success and the weather was very kind to us! There was music, magic, home-made cakes and lots of fun. Members of the garden group and local community baked, gardened, booked entertainers, invited the press and local dignitaries, made banners, dressed up, did face-painting and generally helped to make the picnic one of our most successful and well-attended. Thanks to all involved and to everyone who came and had a good time!

2009 has also been a good year for awards – for the fourth year in a row, we have been awarded the Green Pennant, which recognizes the high standards to which the garden is maintained. We

also received a Neighbourhood Award of Merit from the RHS Britain in Bloom awards this year. These awards help us to focus on how we can improve the garden, and they are a reflection of everyone's commitment and hard work.

The garden itself continues to be well-used by local residents, who enjoy and respect it. We have virtually no problems with litter or graffiti. We've continued to garden monthly and after seven years the garden is now well-established and easier to maintain. We're still developing it, and thanks to Haringey Council the garden will soon have two new benches and a new larger notice board. Other additions this year include a bird table, plants donated by local gardeners, and bamboo screens which make a great natural backdrop for the profusion of shrubs and flowers near the fences.

The Garden has benefited from Making the Difference grants, but we also fund-raise to pay for extra plants, equipment and the essential insurance. We went Carol Singing again last year, greeting the commuters at Bowes Park station as they got to the bridge. It was a jolly occasion as well as raising nearly £60 for the Garden. Do join us this year when we hope to serenade people at Bounds Green station as well as Bowes Park.

I'm standing down as Secretary of the Garden Group after seven busy and enjoyable years. It's been a great way to meet members of my local community and make new friends, as well as watching the garden blossom and getting involved in all kinds of events and activities. If you'd be interested in joining the garden group, or volunteering as Secretary please contact me on 0208 881 0673 or cargyle@talktalk.net for more information.

As always I'd like to thank BPCA, Haringey Council and last but not least the members of the garden group for all their support and enthusiasm which has made the garden into a very special green space.

Charlotte Argyle

Friends of Finsbury Gardens

The success of 'Fins Feste' as part of the 150 Years Celebrations took everyone by surprise. The weather was fantastic, the cakes sold out to the last crumb, the bouncy castle offered fun for the young who were equally enthralled by David's water racing boats. Books were sold in great quantities as were plants and the drummers and band were just superb and brought a festive atmosphere to the day. None of this would have happened without the dedication a small group of volunteers who worked tirelessly to make everything run so smoothly.

The team of Friends of Finsbury Gardens learnt a lot from the experience and we do indeed hope to repeat the exercise next year if we can gather a much larger group of committed helpers to take responsibility for different aspects of the Activity Day. It was extremely hard work for a relatively small group of people but we did get some other offers of help if we repeat the Festival day but would need many more helpers. It is not too early to contact Kate 0208 888 1689 or katefranzmann@tiscali.co.uk and volunteer.

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 Celebration of the New River which 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 community use are pleased with the progress we have made.

The 100 year old railings need urgent attention, they need major repair and replacement in some places and conserving and repainting all round. Three specialist firms have examined the railings and given detailed estimates. One quote was for doing the work on site and came to £18,000 plus VAT, and the other two were four times more for doing the work off site. The railings have not been painted for about 50 years (one specialist said probably not since the last war) and

deserve to be well treated. We will need to write excellent funding proposals to get what the gardens require.

In April 2009 we had a Planning Afternoon. It was advertised locally for anyone interested to come along and a small group attended the afternoon workshop. We discussed likes and dislikes, needs wants and possibilities. To read a report of the Workshop and the ideas we agreed to try to work towards, read "What's next for Finsbury Gardens" on the website or ask for a paper copy.

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

We generally have a minimum of two major gardening sessions a year and these are advertised on the notice boards and website. If you can spare an hour or two to improve our neighbourhood please come along.

We had Carol Singing on the Sunday before Christmas, with mulled wine and lots of mince pies. Solar powered lights hung in the tree and candles and oil lamps created a real Christmas feeling. Our Carol Singing is planned for Sunday 20th 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. 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 time and keeps the playground from being vandalised. Shirley also needs to be given a big thank-you for generously providing the electricity for the Festival.

Kate Franzmann

Quiz 2009

On Saturday 25th April, over 90 residents and guests from across Bowes Park participated in the fifth Annual BPCA Community Quiz Night which took place at the Bounds Green Bowls and Tennis Club. The evening was fun event which included a tasty ploughman's supper and the opportunity to win some great raffle prizes kindly donated by local businesses. Over £280 was raised for the BPCA's work and a further £141 for the community gardens in Myddleton Road and Finsbury Gardens. Particular thanks go to Jane O'Neill for organising refreshments, Martin Shipp for his Quizmaster skills, Kate Franzmann for ticket sales, and to the fantastic group of volunteers on the evening without whom the event would not have been possible. This is a popular event which we hope to repeat in 2010!

Nicki Della Porta

Planning.

The BPCA comments on many applications, and it might be useful to repeat what I have said before about the process. "The Association is sent the planning applications for properties in our area by both councils. If there is a matter which does not affect the over-all nature of the area then we either let it pass, or inform those members who live near that it is being considered. Applications that we consider more important to the area as a whole, are looked at by the committee or sub-committee and comments sent to the council. In some cases residents close to an application site take action themselves, and this we support where appropriate." Keen residents willing to help monitor and write on applications please contact Caroline on 8881 9386.

The most notable applications and properties this last year have been:

- Kings Shop, 51 Finsbury Road – timber windows were put in of a more appropriate design. Case now closed.
- Shaftesbury Hall, Herbert Road – the Appeal against refusal of planning permission was not successful. For the present this Tin Tabernacle, a 'building of local historic interest', is saved from demolition. But it needs love and use. What would be

wonderful is a partnership project to restore and convert with a rear extension and for the Samaritans to share use with the wider community. Is there any local architect out there who will give the BPCA some advice for free and see if we can get this idea on the road?

- 153 Palmerston – the proposal for many flats had been refused last year. This year they got permission for 2 flats.
- 129 Palmerston – the BPCA has objected to the demolition of this fine late Victorian building and proposed over-development.
- 131 Palmerston – The BPCA objected to the over-development of this fine building – a twin to 129. Enfield refused permission. Developers have appealed.
- 90 Trinity Road – Enforcement action saw the removal of the metal extension and shutters.
- 4-10 Whittington Road – enforcement action ensured the removal of external roller shutters. Looks far better. This case shows how much better Myddleton Road would look also if the unapproved external roller-shutters were removed there also.
- 17 Whittington Road – last year this terraced house was unlawfully converted to 6 self-contained flats. Permission refused. Appeal dismissed. They have another 6 months to return this house to a house.
- 67 Clarence rd – conversion and extension given planning permission with slight modifications. BPCA had objected.
- 125 Myddleton Rd – application to convert recording studio at rear into a flat. The BPCA and hundreds of recording artists objected. Refused!
- 79 Myddleton Rd – application for yet another flat in this building was refused. The extra unlawful flat exists. Enforcement is 'looking into this'.
- rear of 110-118 Myddleton – the developer had received permission for building a block of 3 flats at the rear of this alley. He built 5. Enforcement action taken. Appeal lodged. Appeal dismissed. Developer has another 5 months to return it to 3 flats.
- 143 Myddleton – this corner property/restaurant has been empty/not functioning for months and years. In May they knocked down part of the side wall on Whittington and inserted a steel and glass shop front and put up signs for a Take Away. Objections and enforcement. Signs removed. BUT... we have recently had a letter from Haringey Enforcement saying that the matter is closed! What? A steel and glass shop front inserted into a residential street in a Conservation Area without any permission and they are not going to get the property returned to how it was for over 100 years? The BPCA is taking Action please support us and write to Haringey.

The purpose of commenting on applications is to try to keep or create good quality buildings and good quality living and working accommodation. As in previous years there have been unauthorised changes to buildings and subdivision of buildings without permissions, but there seem to be less this year than recently. Please do be vigilant about your local street. Talk to a planning officer at your council if you are worried about any property. Check the planning websites if you have internet access.

Caroline Simpson

Myddleton Road

The Myddleton Road Strategy Group has continued to meet during 2009 focusing on looking at longer term change for the road. The Group, chaired by Bounds Green Labour Councillor Matt Cooke, is made up of Councillors, Council Officers from neighbourhood management, housing, regeneration and enforcement, BPCA representatives and Myddleton Road residents and traders. The traders on Myddleton Road are also planning to develop a group for the local businesses. I would like to thank the Officers who attend this meeting for their hard work on our behalf and to say that we will miss Kate Garner who has done a great job for us as neighbourhood manager and welcome Sonia Edwards.

Heritage & Shopfronts

As reported last year, a bid has been made to English Heritage for money to restore some of the historic, Victorian shop fronts. This scheme will work with owners, who contribute some funds, to return a shop front to its former glory and help to retain some of the original character of the street. Just a few shop fronts remain that give a hint of the wooden frames, curved glass, tiling and decoration that made the street an architectural treasure and why it has the status of a 'conservation area.' The bid has been successful and the English Heritage has pledged 300

thousand pounds for the conservation restoration project. This is dependent on matched funding from the Council and this has been agreed. We have asked that £100k of the Council contribution should be brought forward to be spent in this financial year i.e. up to March 2010, so that a start can be made on improvements. I think we must also acknowledge that the general financial situation has worsened in the last year and that our representatives may have to make a strong case for the money to be retained.

Spending 2009 to 2010

It has been agreed that £100 thousand can be spent in this year and alternatives that are on the table are repairing sash windows, relocating satellite dishes from the front of buildings and planning and holding a series of street markets and putting security shutters behind the windows and not in front as they are now.

There was some discussion at the last meeting about the viability of street markets in the longer term and whether the money would be better spent on bringing back an empty shop into community use and employing a project worker to develop and try to get funding for other projects in the road that will help to give it a new vibrancy and bring more people in to the area as well as focusing on the restoration of the 'look' of the street. But given that it is 'matched funding' for the heritage project, there may be 'limitations' on how it can be spent. There have been suggestions of a community space being used as an internet cafe, a space for the BPCA, a local meeting place and a place to exchange goods, sell crafts and 'home made food'. An earlier regeneration report on Myddleton Road, that some of you may remember, also suggested that it should investigate having an 'arts' profile with local studios and workshops. These options will be discussed at the AGM and then a meeting of the Strategy Group will be held to hear feedback.

Street Cleaning

This has again been on the agenda and more progress has been made. Two specially timed collections have been developed to meet the needs of both traders and residents in Myddleton Road. The flexibility that has been shown in delivering this 'targeted' service is really helpful and I would like to thank the Waste Management team for this and all their hard work on our behalf. I think that the streets in the area are cleaner and better kept now than for many years and that it makes an enormous difference.

Housing

A team from the Council's Housing Department has looked in to the standard of housing accommodation on Myddleton Road to see if it could be the focus of a Housing of Multiple Occupancy licensing project. They have concluded that the majority of the housing is of a 'reasonable standard' and there does seem to have been an improvement in the overall quality of the housing stock from five years ago. There is also an ongoing discussion about Myddleton Road and the trading/housing balance. Several years ago a consultation was held with local people which came to the conclusion that a part of the road should be designated as 'housing' and have a change in status from 'business'. The thinking behind this is that the road will not return to being a shopping street and that it would be more sensible to see it as a 'mixed use' of shops and housing, and also that any such change of use be managed within a total regeneration framework for the street.

On this matter and all the above it will be good to hear your views. If you cannot come to the AGM, you can email me at catherineherman@yahoo.com and I will pass your views on to the Strategy Group meeting.

Cathy Herman

Bowes Park Walking Group

The Walking Group has developed in several ways since the last Annual Report, firstly by having increased numbers of walkers. Fifteen people joined the walk on New Year's Day which took in two parks and Old Southgate. Of the regular monthly walks, three others had 15 participants, two had 10 and the rest ranged between six and nine. 35 people altogether took part in walks, with a core of about 16 who walk regularly. Only one of the monthly weekend walks (January) was rained off. The majority of these walks have had spectacularly good weather. Venues up to November were: the Parkland Walk, Trent Park, Hadley Woods, Chess Valley, Watton at Stone to Hertford, Lea Valley South, Broxbourne Woods, Thames from Embankment to Canary Wharf and a surprising route from Durnsford Road to Friern Barnet.

A new development was summer evening local walks ending at pubs (actually most walks include a pub or tea room!). One was rained off, but seven walkers enjoyed the other two. These are likely to happen again next year.

The second major development is weekday walks which happened in August (Bayford to Cuffley), September (Lea Valley from Broxbourne to Cheshunt) and October (circular walk from Gordon Hill). Thanks to James Francis for organising these. Again, we hope that these will continue.

The Walking Group meets twice a year in June and December to plan the next six months of walks and socialise. The last walk for 2009 will be around the byways of the City on 29th November. Everyone is welcome!

Catharine Perry - 8881 8422

Handy people

The Bowes Park Community Association Handyman site is going from strength to strength. You can now find anything from plumbers and builders, to upholsterers and grocery deliveries. We are hoping that it might become one of the first ports of call for anyone looking for a reliable local service.

If you have any suggestions of people who could be included, check with them first, then send their details to Lionel at Bowespark@tiscali.co.uk. Also, if you have any new information or amendments to any of the existing entries, please let us know.

Between the 12th September and the end of September the Handyman page had 39 hits. In the whole of October, it had 113 hits.

Give or Take

During 2009, Bowes Park Community Association held two 'give or take' events in Bowes Park giving local residents the opportunity to bring along any unwanted items such as clothes, books, toys and small items of household furniture, and to take away items they required with the aim of diverting reusable items from the waste stream.

The first of these events was held at Trinity-at-Bowes church in April 2009 and more recently, an event was held at Bounds Green School in October 2009 to coincide with North London 'Watch Your Waste Week'. Both of these events were attended by in excess of 100 people, and each diverted an estimated tonne of materials from the waste stream to people who could use them. October's event provided an opportunity for residents to repair their bicycles using the services of Dr Bike, find out more about recycled fashion with Goodone, reducing energy consumption in the home, and perform on stage using recycled drums with Taru Brazil! Residents were also able to find out more about opportunities to reuse and recycle at home, and speak to representatives from LB Haringey about the recent changes to the recycling service.

The Association is grateful for the support of LB Enfield, LB Haringey, North London Waste Authority, the London Community Resource Network and Haringey and Enfield Freecycle over the past year for their contribution in providing assistance with funding, publicity materials, volunteers and disposal of unwanted items for reuse and recycling at these events. The Association is especially grateful to, and would like to thank the local residents and BPCA members who contributed their time to helping out on the day which was crucial to making these events a success. Another Give Or Take Event is planned for 20th March 2010.

Further information on how to reuse and recycle in Bowes Park can be found here:

LB Enfield Recycling Services http://www.enfield.gov.uk/info/200028/recycling_and_waste

LB Haringey Recycling Services

http://www.haringey.gov.uk/index/environment_and_transport/refuseandrecycling.htm

The Freecycle Network – find a home for items you no longer need! <http://www.uk.freecycle.org/>

London Community Resource Network – community reuse activity <http://www.lcrn.org.uk>

ReStore Community Projects - furniture and appliance reuse

<http://www.restorecommunityprojects.org/>

Adam Paul

Rubbish

Our Haringey streets are so much cleaner compared to a few years ago and dumped rubbish gets cleared soon after it is reported. This is thanks to greater investment in street cleaning and litter/waste collection and to efficient, hard working chaps on the streets. Bowes Ward streets – the Enfield part of the BPCA area, are not so clean – as some members have commented. The north end of Marlborough has been very bad for dumped rubbish this year, but it appears that this problem is being sorted out.

Bowes Ward is not one of the current trial wards for wheelie bins in Enfield, but we are assured that everyone in houses etc will have one within 18 months. Hurrah for new rules for recycling waste in Haringey and Enfield – we can now put plastic bags and food containers/trays, and Tetra Paks (juice boxes) into the recycling box.

The new bins we had been promised along Trinity Road and Bounds Green Rd have been installed and are being well used. The BPCA has a small number of Litter-Pickers – long handled pickers for dropped rubbish – which can be claimed by keen environmentally friendly walkers.

The main waste problem in our area, and one that is growing, is the fouling of footpaths and public spaces by dogs. There are more dogs and more irresponsible owners. The laws need to be enforced more strongly and local people report any information they have on local dog fouling.

Street Rep's

We have just started a scheme for Street Representatives. The idea is that willing BPCA Members agree to keep an eye on a street, or part of it, and report any problems to the appropriate authority etc. It will involve taking a leisurely walk along your street every few weeks and noting any problems and then taking simple action. We hope Street Rep's will get to know existing members on the street and will recruit new ones. We have about half the area covered at present – new Street Reps are most welcome.

Crime and Safety

The BPCA Chair is the co-chair of the Bounds Green Safer Neighbourhood Panel. This has 4 meetings a year to agree and monitor the work of our Safer Neighbourhood team which covers the whole Ward. Bounds Green Ward has the second lowest level of recorded crime of all wards in Haringey, and though Bowes Ward has worse statistics, our bit of Enfield is also relatively quiet. However, if you are worried about a police issue or you witness behaviour you feel uneasy about, then do contact your local team: Enfield – 8721 2679; Haringey – 8721 2676.

Both Safer Neighbourhood Teams have monthly evening 'surgeries' at Bounds Green tube station, and they are both setting up Youth panels to involve local young people in creating an even safer place to live, work and study. Both Teams produce a quarterly newsletter which has Safety Tips and up to date news about problems in the area and how the police are dealing with them.

The New River, the Tunnel and Hidden River Path

The line of the river and its tunnel were the main focus for our 150th celebrations, and many more people have become aware of this amazing local amenity. Sadly a few persistent anti-social people drop all their cans and take-away boxes, but thanks to volunteers who clear the litter, and a BPCA LitterPick evening the New River Path has looked tidier this year. Thames Water redesigned the entrance at Whittington Rd as had been requested, and did extensive bank repairs to the more northern part of our section. We have not yet got the agreed bins and dog-bins by the bridge in Whittington Rd (Enfield Council), and there are still some bank repairs to be done, and sign replacements needed (Thames Water). We are planning to put a sign board by the Tunnel entrance.

The 1850 entrance to the Tunnel in Middleton Road is a listed structure – the only one in our area. It is in urgent need of repair. The BPCA has contacted English Heritage, the Conservation

Dept and TW and sent photos and drawings to encourage this to happen. Sadly we learnt that there have been yet further staff cuts to the TW maintenance team of the New River and its Path. It is a shame that this Australian Company does not really value its North London asset.

The Hidden River Path (from Finsbury to Nightingale Gardens) is looking even better now. The bins that went in last year are being well used, the new benches well sat on, and the new apple trees had an apple. In the Spring there were lots of flowers, and hopefully even more next year. Better still – Haringey Council first sorted out the drainage and surface of the section that always flooded, and more recently has re-surfaced the rest of the path. At last it is easy and safe for all to walk along day and night, sun and rain.

Traffic and Roads

Traffic Calming – nearly all the street works connected with the TfL funded alterations have been completed. It has improved life for some, but certainly not for all. Many drivers are ignoring the new No Right Turn at the end of Whittington, and many do U-turns at the end of Clarence – not good. But the No Right Turn has dramatically cut the jams in Whittington and no more fights and road rage. The new design of road layout and paved areas around Finsbury Gardens have created a more residential feel, and will look great when the planting is in place. Why didn't Enfield carry out their full scheme for Whittington by the bridge? This would have created a more residential feel here also. Sadly the ladder roads have faster traffic, and Palmerston appears to have more. We have heard that Enfield will no longer object to a weight restriction – so if you would like one in the Enfield-Haringey roads (most notably Palmerston) then do write to your council.

CPZ – many residents of Marlborough Rd and other streets not in the original CPZ asked for an extension to cover their streets. The consultation has happened, but Enfield Borough has objected. Haringey has done some extra surveys requested, and then the councils will meet and we shall see what transpires.

Secretary's Report – Lukie Hewat

The Secretary reports that there has been less email traffic this year direct from and to the Secretary. This was true even before she was plagued by computer and email problems – which have made communication very difficult in the last few months. The present Secretary is standing down this year after two very busy years. The 'communications' arm of her job could be seen as a specific task. Members vary greatly in the amount of email traffic that they wish to have. Some people complain if they receive more than a very few items.

While it is useful to be kept up to date with developments of the Safer Neighbourhoods teams, there is sometimes a huge volume of mails. Perhaps we should set up a special web area for these, or members who wish to have them identify themselves or some such.

Routine minutes of committee meetings have been taken and circulated – this part of her job could be done by a minute taker appointed by the meeting.

BPCA Website – Webmaster’s Report

Due to the problem with the website a few months ago we can only provide statistics from September 12th, see the table below.

Summary by Month										
Month	Daily Avg				Monthly Totals					
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
Nov 2009	430	348	156	47	116	16338	142	468	1045	1292
Oct 2009	330	265	112	38	681	189582	1195	3493	8243	10255
Sep 2009	174	130	58	20	380	108411	610	1743	3905	5244

The most useful columns to look at are the Daily Average ones (since September is not a complete month). I think they are fairly typical. The sharp increase in October is, I think, accounted for by the distribution of the Bowes Park Newsletter which is being read by people who then log on for more. The visits average about 30-40 per day in the last two months which means that’s how many visitors we get (i.e. who open their browsers and go to us). The pages column shows how many pages are looked at so if you divide pages by visits it comes to about three or four which means that the average visitor goes to three or four pages per visit.

Father Robert Wilkinson

(What Father Robert wrote last year still applies: "The webmaster is happy to continue but is only, at best, an amateur, and if the Association has a member with more developed skills to develop the site further, then approaches to the Committee will be welcome." So if anyone is out there who has more skills and would like to be our Webmaster do please get in touch.)

TREASURER'S REPORT, Yr 9 - 1st October 2008 – 30th September 2009

The Association has a membership of 111; this has bought in funds of £621.00. Now 43 members pay by standing order which brings in a guaranteed sum of £257.00. This equals to about 40% of the annual subs income. Thanks to the local generosity donations were up again this year totalling £234.99

Fundraising Events Christmas Sale, Quiz Night, Give & Take Day cake sale brought in a net income of £461.07 for the main Association.

Thames Water Co donated £300 via Charities Aid Foundation for T-shirts for the Sponsored Walk.

We produced two newsletters this year at a cost of £724.65.

Our sponsor for one newsletter this year was Anne West & Assoc Dental Surgeons in Southgate many thank to them for the £250.00 towards the cost of printing.

Myddleton Road Garden Donations received for The Garden were £63.14 and their fundraising activities brought in £257.45.

Friends of Finsbury Garden Have funds of £393.45 due to their efforts in fundraising activities.

The 150th Festival all expenses were paid by a Grassroots grant from ELCF.

Bowes Park Community Association and Friends of Finsbury Gardens

Details of funding made by Wood Green Neighbourhood Management and Making the Difference in 2008/2009

Year	Item funded	Funding source	Amount	Progress
2008/09	Myddleton Road - Mural		£1,200.00	Completed
2008/09	Nightingale Rd – 4 trees		£1,000	To come
2008/09	BP Community Garden 2 benches and new notice board		?	To come
Total			£2,200.00 + ?	

BOWES PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
Financial Report for Year 9
Income & Expenditure
1st October 2008 - 30th September 2009

Bowes Park Community Association			2007-08
Fundraising			
Christmas sale at AGM	25.50	25.50	
Quiz tickets	560.58		530.00
Less: Cost of food	-111.58		-66.03
Club hire	-75.00		-100.00
Spoons	-2.79		-7.17
expenses for N. Della Porta	-74.80	296.41	
Quiz Raffle	84.60	84.60	
CAF - Charities Aid Foundation	200.00	200.00	
Give or Take Day			
Sale of Cakes & Refreshments	54.56		23.10
Reimbursement of Give & Take Day 4/10/08	90.00	144.56	-90.00
Income			
Membership subscriptions	621.00		699.00
Donations received	234.99		210.31
Sponsorship	250.00		250.00
Interest	3.27	1,109.26	16.62
Less Expenses			
Insurance	144.05		-195.00
Printing & photocopying	724.65		-740.23
Stationery & computer	308.48		-103.39
Postage	33.54		-64.68
Hall hire	80.00		-77.50
Subscriptions	32.00		-41.50
Equipment	22.21	1,344.93	-15.50
Depreciation: Display screen	10.00		-20.00
Depreciation: Laminator	5.00	15.00	-10.00
Surplus of Income over expenses		<u><u>500.40</u></u>	<u><u>198.03</u></u>
 The 150th Festival 13th June 09			
ELCF Grant	5000.00		
Session Workers	-1660.00		
Volunteer Cost Payments	-3.92		
Operational/Activity Cost Payments	-2041.38		
Stationery Cost	-53.58		
Items Purchased	-174.09		
Publicity Costs	-718.00		
Volunteer Cost Payments	-49.06	299.97	<u><u>299.97</u></u>

Myddleton Road Community Gardens			2007-08
Fundraising			
Carol singing	<u>58.99</u>	58.99	90.00
Sponsored Walk			
CAF - Charities Aid Foundation	<u>100.00</u>	100.00	93.86
Cake Stall at Festival			
Sale of Cakes	109.58		
Less: Expenses	-11.12	98.46	
Income			
Making a Difference	309.00		
Donations received	<u>63.14</u>	372.14	220.62
Less Expenses			
Insurance	130.00		-130.00
Equipment	<u>213.75</u>	343.75	-17.47
Depreciation: Tool Vault	30.00		-30.00
Depreciation: Tools	43.00	73.00	-43.00
Surplus of Income over expenses		<u><u>212.84</u></u>	<u><u>184.01</u></u>

Friends of Finsbury Gardens			2007-08
Fundraising			
Sponsored Walk			
		100.00	93.86
Quiz Raffle		56.40	
Food & Drink at Festival		237.05	
Income	0.00		
Less Expenses	0.00		
Surplus of Income over expenses		<u><u>393.45</u></u>	<u><u>93.86</u></u>

BOWES PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Financial Report for Year 9

Balance Sheet

1st October 2008 - 30th September 2009

Fixed Assets	Cost	Dept	N/B Value
2004 Table Topper display screen	101.63	90.00	11.63
2006 Laminator	49.99	15.00	34.99
2006/07 Tool Vault	300.00	60.00	240.00
2006/07 Tools	340.00	86.00	254.00
2008/08 Camera	174.01	0.00	174.01
	<u>965.63</u>	<u>251.00</u>	<u>714.63</u>
 Current Assets			
Current Account CASH BOOK		566.05	
Reserve Account CASH BOOK		2,411.42	
Petty Cash		<u>50.00</u>	3,027.47
 Current Liabilities			
		<u>0.00</u>	0.00
 Net Assets			
			<u><u>3,742.10</u></u>
 Accumulated funds			
Balance b/fwd from 30th Sept 2008			
Fixed Assets		628.62	
Banks BPCA	782.79		
Banks MRCG	606.16		
Banks FFG	<u>93.86</u>		
Total Bank Accounts		1482.81	
Petty cash		50.00	
 Add Surplus of income over expenditure			
Fixed Assets		174.01	
BPCA		500.40	
MRCG		212.84	
FFG		393.45	
Grant for 150th Festival		299.97	
Total			<u><u>3,742.10</u></u>
 Balance c/fwd at 30th Sept 2009			
Fixed Assets			714.63
Banks BPCA	1298.19		
Banks MRCG	892.00		
Banks FFG	487.31		
Grant for 150th Festival	<u>299.97</u>		
Total Bank Accounts			2,977.47
Petty cash			<u>50.00</u>
Total			<u><u>3,742.10</u></u>

About Bowes Park – the BPCA Newsletter

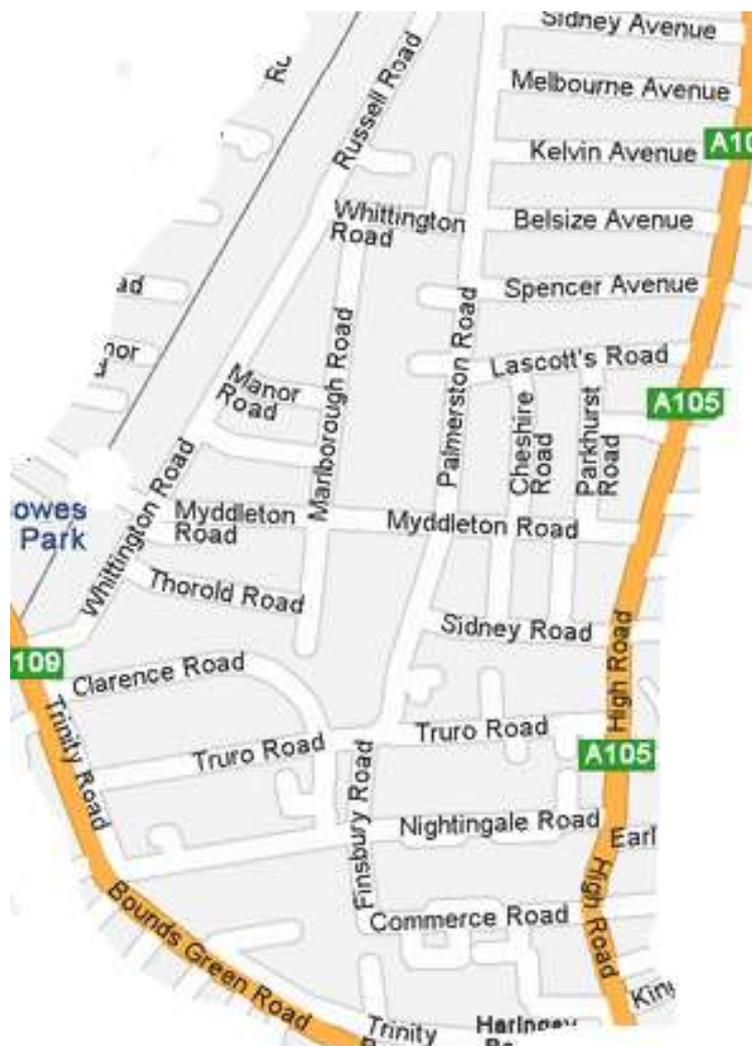
3,500 copies of About Bowes Park are distributed free to all residents in the BPCA area, and sent to all Members who don't live here. We have produced two issues of About Bowes Park this year. The main job of coordinating/editing/layout was done by Caroline Simpson, but we are looking for a new volunteer for this. The management of the distribution was by Brian O'Reilly, who would like to hear from any more potential deliverers. Many thanks to Brian and to all of our members who deliver the newsletter – despite barking dogs, snappy letter-boxes and soggy weather. Thank you also to the dentist Anne West who sponsored the first issue. We are keen to find other sponsors for further issues – it is a great way to get known by all local residents.

The newsletter is our main way of communicating to the residents in our area, and we hope that each issue has some news items of interest to all. We would welcome any short articles and news items from our members and other residents – so if you have something you wish to say to a wider audience, why not try writing to About Bowes Park?

The BPCA's primary area

This map shows the main area that the BPCA covers and delivers the newsletter to all flats and houses in these streets except the High Road/Green Lanes and Bowes Road.

We also take an interest in some matters in a wider local area – such as around the tube station and bits of Bounds Green Road. We have also commented on planning matters which affect residents in our area though the specific issue or site may be outside our primary area.



Annual Report compiled by Caroline Simpson, Chair BPCA, Nov 2009.