



Spring 2016

Your Bowes Park

Local news & updates from the Bowes Park Community Association

Message from the Chair of the BPCA

Welcome to our Spring 2016 edition, providing you with news and forthcoming events in the Bowes Park area. It's good to see that after a long wait, the Russell Road Green Space is finally coming together, even if not quite as we expected! We have news of our various thriving groups, and you'll also see our usual requests for

ideas and help with setting up events such as the table-tennis tournament and the ever-popular FinsFeste. Don't hesitate to contact us if you have ideas for community events – if you're prepared to develop them, we'll gladly support you!

Joanna Burke

Renaissance Piano Centre and Music Academy



at 81 Myddleton Road was officially opened during the September street festival by our MP, Catherine West.

The owners, Paul and Daniel, have lived in the area for many years, and Paul has taught

piano locally for some 15 years. Being aware of Myddleton Road's continuing development, they wanted to encourage music in the local community. There has been a big musical presence in the area for years and the area is home to many accomplished musicians, but they felt that up to now there has not been a centre to support it. They wanted to create a focal

point for music and build up a community-based music centre with tuition and room hire for rehearsals and auditions.

Coming from a family of four generations of musicians, they have a love of pianos and wanted to carry on their passion through their work. As well as selling pianos they offer other services such as piano moving, restoration and tuning, and also stock sheet music.

They can be contacted at any time to discuss any thoughts or queries about music and pianos, and are always delighted to welcome visitors to their lovely premises.



www.renaissancemusic.co.uk



Fins Feste

Fins Feste is our very popular festival, held annually in Finsbury Gardens. The date for this year's Fins Feste is Saturday 17 September, and we're delighted that Sue Walker has agreed to organise it (thanks to Kate Franzmann for her stalwart efforts in previous years!).

We hope to see the local community join us in an outdoor event for residents and families to enjoy once again. There will be entertainments and games, as well as stalls with drinks and refreshments. If you live nearby come and help us and, whether new to the area or living here for ages, come and meet your fellow neighbours. Volunteers are always welcome to help stage this event – contact: **Sue Walker 07854 065429**

Update on the Tin Tabernacle

In previous newsletters, you will have read about the North London Samaritans' application for Big Lottery Funding to redevelop Shaftesbury Hall, the much-loved 'Tin Tabernacle' in Herbert Road, by Bowes Park Station. Their stage one lottery submission was successful and the stage two was submitted in March 2016. Everyone involved is keeping fingers crossed for the outcomes, due in July 2016. They are also beginning a serious fundraising campaign to raise the £800,000 necessary to make this project happen. If you feel you can help in any way, contact Andrew Cox with any ideas you may have for fundraising events at:

director@northlondonsamaritans.org.uk

or go to: www.justgiving.com/North-London-Samaritans

North London Samaritans are also looking for a treasurer; if you are interested and have experience of bookkeeping and accountancy please contact them. They will provide coaching and training.

WE ♥ MYDDLETON ROAD

We're still going strong. Join this active community campaign here www.bowesandbounds.org/page/myddleton-road

and look out for recent news, including the results of our recent photography competition (April 2016).

Myddleton Road Summer Festival

The summer festival returns on Sunday 19 June from 11am-6pm, along the whole of Myddleton Road providing family fun all day. There will be bars, a live music stage, and 40 market stalls with street food, crafts, fresh produce and cakes. There will also be funfair rides and giant games to enjoy. Bring a neighbour and tell a friend! The full stalls line-up will be on myddletonroadmarket.co.uk nearer the time.

Lend a hand delivering flyers, stewarding, setting up, staffing the games or clearing up at the end – all volunteers are greatly appreciated! If you can help, would like a stall, or can perform on the day, please contact: lucy@myddletonroadmarket.co.uk

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Thinking of moving home in 2016?

News from the BPCA: Come and visit us!

On Tuesday 24 May we will be holding our bi-monthly Committee meeting – with a difference. Come and visit to find out how we work, input to our discussions, or raise any issue you feel would be of community interest or benefit.

Chris Devonport at Hobarts has kindly offered to let us use his offices in Myddleton Road (thank you, Chris!), so do drop in at 8.30pm for a chat and a drink; we'd be delighted to see you.

We intend to follow this with informal drop-in sessions where anyone can come and chat about an issue, an idea for improving the area, or a local problem that we might be able to advise on.

Two members of the BPCA committee will be there to meet you and the sessions will be held on the first Thursday of the month – see *Diary Dates* for details.

The Prince Pub

One of the area's finest buildings, and what could be its best pub, is about to re-open!

The Prince is in the Trinity Road Conservation Area, included in Haringey's *Register of Local Listed Buildings of Merit* in 1997. It is a fine Victorian pub built in 1868, with lovely original tile work outside and a largely unspoilt interior.

Many people remember the Prince of Wales pub when it was a happy, lively, busy and very friendly local with good beers, a fine pool table, and a piano. Despite a short period with a wonderful Thai lady chef called Tip it has gone downhill in recent years. It closed in late 2014 and many felt that perhaps it was to be yet another pub destined for property development. It was opened again for a few weeks last year, but closed again. There was a lot of discussion on the Bowes and Bounds Connected website, and the suggestion was made for it to be formally designated as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). Richard Maltz and Richard McKeever worked hard to jump through all the necessary hoops, and the Council listed it on 8 October last year.

On 14 March, Martin Aberdeen gave us all some very good news. He said, "After long protracted negotiations we've finally got the keys for The Prince. We have one other pub – The Duke's Head in Highgate, and plan to open up The Prince on similar lines to focus on great beer, food and strong links to the local community."

The word on the street is that The Duke's Head is an excellent pub, and it will be great to have one like it here.

The free house will showcase the best of independent cask and keg beer, alongside a variety of wines and spirits, supporting local providers where possible. The food offer will likely be a pop-up restaurant during the summer, with a managed kitchen coming further down the line. For those wondering what is to happen with the side room where the pool table once resided, the plan is to install a feature 2.5bbl microbrewery to supply the two pubs, alongside further dining and drinking areas.

As this newsletter goes to press a team of workmen, led by Julian and accompanied by his golden Labrador, Nougat, is working on the interior and they hope the pub will reopen in the next four to six weeks.



Support it, drink its ales, and have fun using it so we don't lose it again!

Bowes Park Community Choir

We had a very successful December concert which, together with the collection at the carol singing by Bounds Green Station, raised £725.18, which was donated to the North London Hospice.

This summer we will be joining an exciting project for the opening of the new wing at Tate Modern. Choirs from across London will come together, bringing 500 voices to sing in the Turbine Hall. The music has been specially commissioned by the Tate to celebrate the opening. We have had our first workshop with Peter Liversidge, the poet commissioned to write the words and music for *The Bridge*, and we are looking forward to participating.

The event will take place on Saturday 18 June, and all are welcome to come and enjoy the fantastic new building as well as the performance.

The choir meets on Thursday evenings from 7-9.15 pm at Bounds Green School and we are always looking to welcome new people to join us. Please see *Diary Dates* and find out more at:

www.bowesparkcommunitychoir.org



www.bowespark.org.uk

Bowes Park COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Show your support for your neighbourhood this year by joining the BPCA – the more members we have, the stronger is our voice. The Association works with the councils, responds to problems and opportunities as they arise, and supports local groups and initiatives such as We Love Myddleton Road, the street markets, the Community Garden, Finsbury Gardens and the Walking Group. We also put together this newsletter twice a year and organise its delivery to every house in the area.

You can join by paying online via our website. To pay by cheque or set up a standing order, call 020 8881 8422 to ask for a membership or standing order form.

The rates are: household: £15; household concession: £4; individual: £10; individual concession: £2.

www.bowespark.org.uk

Table-tennis competition – help requested

- Can anyone help with organising a table tennis tournament in mid-June at the outdoor gym in Myddleton Road?
- It was a great first tournament last year, and with your support we'd like to make it bigger and better in 2016.
- Get in touch with: sue.baylik@btinternet.com



Bowes Park People: Katherine Gallagher

Katherine Gallagher, poet, has lived in Bowes Park for 36 years. Leaving her home in Australia she travelled, via the Himalayas, Paris and south London, to finally put her roots down in north London. On the way she met her future husband, Bernard, and

they have a son, Julien. Her choice of home has been a real 'bonne chance' for the development of poetry in the area.

Katherine's early education in a convent boarding school did not motivate her to be a poet! Nor did the hardware store in which she subsequently worked provide much inspiration – that came later at university. Her first work, a poem against hanging, reflected her humanitarian views. A first collection of poems, 'The Eye's Circle' was brought out in 1974, and many others have followed.

Katherine has always been aware of the need to promote local poets and poetry. Her work in schools, both as a supply teacher and as a writer in residence, has encouraged students to express themselves through the medium. In 2010, pupils at Bounds Green School worked with Katherine to produce a series of poems celebrating the anniversary of the New River, which was published by the BPCA. In addition, Katherine has been a judge for the Junior Section of the Barnet Open Poetry Competition for 21 years.

In 2012, her poem "The Year of the Tree" was chosen for the Guardian poem of the week blog, and was made into a two-minute film by Andrew Spicer – go to <https://vimeo.com/137127851> to watch this delightful little film. With another local poet, Myra Schneider, and others, the "Poetry in Palmers Green" group provides twice-yearly readings and they have just been appointed Poets in Residence in the new Palmers Green Library, offering workshops, readings and children's events.

Katherine's latest collection of poems will be published in October. Titled "Acres of Light", it is dedicated to her brother who planted twenty thousand trees in Central Victoria, Australia. Katherine sees WB Yeats and the Australian poet, Judith Wright as major influences, for "their skills, their love of poetry and never giving up."

Having lived in Bowes Park for 36 years, Katherine has seen many changes in the area. She is extremely supportive and grateful to the BPCA for its work on improving the area, especially for different age groups, but regrets the loss of a community centre which she feels One-Two-Eight provided a few years ago.

You can find out more about Katherine and her poetry at:

www.katherine-gallagher.com

Also check out www.seconlightlive.com. Fliers for the Palmers Green workshops are available from the library.

Russell Road Green Space or ???

In the Spring 2014 newsletter we featured the proposals for improvements to a piece of unused space at the end of Russell Road, where the New River goes under the North Circular and then on to Palmers Green. Enfield Councillors agreed that it should be funded from the Resident Priority Fund and we hoped work would start in 2014. Oh dear! It took another 18 months for Thames Water and Enfield to agree and sign the lease, but in November we were told it was full steam ahead. We had meetings with officers and councillors, meetings for residents, drawings and financial calculations by officers, leaflet drops to all residents with the agreed plan, hundreds of emails back and forth to make sure we had agreement and no misunderstandings – and then in February the work started on the ground.

Major tree removal and pruning was required and the new fence and gates went in. It was at that point that the work on the ground did not appear to follow the plan that a Council Officer in the Highways Design team had drawn up and that we – the BPCA and the residents – had all agreed on.

But the weather was bad and our lead BPCA person was away for a fortnight, and work continued on the ground. We now have an extra gate, an extra expensive tarmac path, one seat

instead of two, some giant angular slabs of stone near the fence instead of playful rounded boulders on the far side and one large tree trunk like a stranded whale on the bare earth.

At the time of going to press we don't know what the 'new' planting scheme is, or even if there is one. Where is our 'Edible Hedge'? The 'Screen planting' at the north end? Are the three trees really fruit trees? And what about the 'Wildflower Meadow' and the 'Ornamental Grasses'? The second bench? Are they going to happen.... Yes or No? And does it matter either way? The small area of unloved scrub and rubbish has been transformed!

In five years time we hope there will be a charming green and flowering area, with a few odd things for kids to climb on, grass to have a picnic on, daisies to make a daisy chain, and hopefully people will pick up their dog mess and there will be no broken glass and beers cans. Memory will have faded about what might have been, and we will have what is. And indeed – what is it? The Green Space seemed an uninspired name, so enter the competition to give it a new name and you could win a £50 voucher. Go to:

www.bowespark.org.uk/2016/02/09/name-our-new-park/

Bowes Park Walking Group

We're still going strong, with many new faces and significant numbers on the walks. Trips in the last year have included several walks in Hertfordshire, an informative Chislehurst & Petts Wood walk, our usual local evening walks and a trip south of the river to Wimbledon and Barnes. A few social events at The Step are added for those who have missed walks and want to keep in touch. Our local qualified guide Robert has added some guided walks in central London.

Evening walks start again in May, and future walks include Grimsdyke and part of the London Loop on 29 May. Keep an eye on *Bowes & Bounds Connected* for information and dates.

Bounds Green Bowls and Tennis Club welcomes our new tennis coach, Nick Frost

Nick is setting up groups for all ages from 4 to 94! You don't have to be a club member to attend the groups or to have private coaching.

Come to the Club Open Day on Saturday 14 May 9am-4pm to try tennis with Nick (9am-1pm) or Bowls on the green from 11am. Food and bar available. Entrance next to 20 Goring Road.

For more details please see:

www.bgbtc.co.uk/home/tennis/tennis-coaching

or ring Nick on:

07572 415 898

Bowes Park Folk Club

We're at Mum's Bistro, 143 Myddleton Road, N22 8NG on the first Thursday of the month at 8pm.

Superb live folk music and a friendly welcome! Find us at:

www.facebook.com/BowesParkFolkClub

www.bowesandbounds.org/group/bowes-park-folk-club



The Cruel Mothers - 2 June

Come (Draw) With Us

Once a month a small group of Bowes Parkers with artistic leanings go out to a museum, cathedral, cemetery or park to draw. It's a nice thing to do whatever your level of ability, and we also enjoy having a cup of tea together when we share, in a non-judgmental way, what we have done. We don't even insist that you draw – you are welcome to join us just to look round the venue.

Our trips are always on a Sunday, mostly in the afternoon, to places in London. We sometimes take day trips out of town to places like Cambridge or Canterbury, by train, using '4 for the price of 2' tickets. On 15 May we are going to Brighton.

If you would like get on the email list for the Bowes Park Drawing Group (until recently the Bowes Park Art Group) contact:

bowesparkdrawing@gmail.com, or call 020 8881 8422

Look out for upcoming trips in the *Bowes & Bounds Connected* events list.

£3 OFF VOUCHER

Bowes Park Folk Club

Bring this voucher to any Thursday club night for £3 off admission.

Cuts, Cuts, and More Cuts

"Central government has made cuts to the council's budget of £117million since 2010, and a further £70million will be slashed during the coming three years."

Bad news for young people with closed youth clubs, and young kids with closed children's centres and seen on the streets every day.



A flowerbed!



The artwork by these bins is looking tired and sad



Burnt, rusty bin



This Trinity Road sign has been in a Finsbury Gardens hedge for years.



Potholes – this one in Myddleton Road is getting bigger and deeper by the week.



General street rubbish and overflowing bins – many street sweepers have been made redundant.

Diary Dates

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Thursday 5 May: | Bowes Park Folk Club, 8 pm at Mum's Bistro – na-mara: skilled duo Rob Garcia and Paul McNamara play Breton, French, Quebecois, British and original songs with guitar, mandolin and mandola accompaniment. |
| Saturday 14 May | Big Garden Cleanup at the Myddleton Road Community Garden 11am-1pm – no experience needed, tools provided (bring tools if you have them), free tea/coffee and cakes for everyone who joins in. |
| Tuesday 24 May: | Bowes Park Community Association – Open Committee meeting at 8.30pm (Hobarts, 74-76 Myddleton Road). Drop in sessions 6-7pm on 2 June, 7 July, 4 August and 1 September. |
| Sunday 29 May: | Bowes Park Walking Group – Hatch End to Elstree, via Grimsdyke (part of London Loop path). |
| Thursday 2 June: | Bowes Park Folk Club, 8pm at Mum's Bistro – The Cruel Mothers: Carol Burtt and Sarah Jones play traditional English and American folk songs; stunning harmonies and sensitive guitar accompaniment. |
| Saturday 11 June: | Myddleton Road Community Picnic, 2-5 pm in the Community Garden. |
| Saturday 18 June: | Bowes Park Community Choir – Tate Modern Turbine Hall, 5pm. |
| Sunday 19 June: | Street Festival and Myddleton Road Market. |
| Sunday 26 June: | Bowes Park Walking Group – Welwyn Garden City to Welwyn North. |
| Thursday 7 July: | Bowes Park Community Choir Summer Concert, 8pm at Alexandra Park School. |
| Thursday 7 July: | Bowes Park Folk Club Showcase – Local talent and a great singalong! |
| Sunday 4 September: | Myddleton Road Market. |
| Saturday 19 September: | FinsFeste (Finsbury Gardens Festival) 2-6 pm, Finsbury Gardens. |