

HPEA newsletter May 2012

This is the first edition of the HPEA email newsletter, which we plan to issue monthly (except August). Please let the editorial team have your thoughts and feedback (Contact cliffordsarah@ymail.com) We are also looking into producing a hard copy format; please let us know if you (or someone you know) would prefer to receive the hard copy in due course. We are also bringing our website up to date.

Police news/safer neighbourhoods

Phone boxes: we are determined to do something about the appalling and disgraceful phone boxes in the estate. Jack Gordon, our Ward Panel Chairman, is campaigning with the Council and the Police to have these awful boxes removed. We will keep you informed.

Jubilee weekend: please see the Met Police's information leaflet regarding events, road closures and how to obtain up to date information on our website www.hpea.org.uk/community-safety/community-safety-news/

Update from Sgt Ken Taylor, Hyde Park Safer Neighbourhoods team:

- We have an emerging issue with criminals posing as bogus Police officers and targeting visitors to our area. They engage the victim in conversation, show some ID and then search the victim with a story about looking for forged currency. The cash and valuables are then taken.
- On 27 April at 10am plain clothes officers came across an offence in progress in Sussex Gardens. A tourist from Japan had been stopped by three suspects. Two suspects made off in a car which was recovered later. One man was arrested and charged with robbery and impersonating Police. The investigation is continuing to locate and arrest two further suspects.
- A resident of Park West was evicted from a flat at the location last month. This follows joint action by Police, Management and Westminster Council. There had been nine persons arrested at his flat following three raids on the venue and instances of criminal damage and drug taking. Anti social behaviour will not be tolerated and we will work with all our partners to deal with those who make life unpleasant for others.
- Five youths were arrested in Cambridge Court in possession of an imitation gun on the 8th of April. Two are currently awaiting trial for possession of an imitation firearm in a public place.
- On the crime front we did have a burglary to a flat on Saturday afternoon, 19 May, possibly through open patio doors. With the warm weather finally arriving, please secure your home when you are not around.
- There has been a report of bogus builders targeting the elderly with tales of damp work that needs doing. An advance fee of £4,500 was paid to the suspects who have since disappeared. The victim who is in his 90's was approached by a man in a car claiming to be working nearby. The matter is currently under investigation. Please be alert, and if you have elderly neighbours can you make them aware.

HPEA events

On Saturday 2 June 2012 the Hyde Park Estate Association will be hosting a special celebration in Connaught Square in honour of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The party will take place from 4pm to 8pm and admission charges are all to be donated to Age UK (Westminster). For more information, including how to get tickets, please see our website www.hpea.org.uk

Pub Evenings: our pub evenings are normally held on the second Wednesday of the month in the Upstairs Theatre Bar of the Victoria pub in Strathearn Place, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. The next Pub Evening will be held on Wednesday 13 June (topic and speaker to be confirmed); we take a break in July and August, and resume on Wednesday 12 September. We are constantly on the lookout for venues which would be more accessible, and we are exploring the possibility of technology solutions to enable a wider participation.

Coffee Mornings: we hold coffee mornings in different venues on the first Wednesday of the month, from 10:30am to 11:30am. The next meeting will be Wednesday 6 June. Please contact thehpea@yahoo.co.uk if you would like to be included on the invitation list.

HPEA Annual General Meeting: this year we shall be holding the AGM in October. Please note the date for your diaries – Tuesday 16 October. Members will be receiving invitations nearer the time.

Planning

An application has been made for railings to be erected along Sussex Gardens. This initiative has been in discussion for some time, and should significantly improve the appearance of the south side of the road. Other recent applications can be viewed on Westminster Council's website <http://www.westminster.gov.uk/services/environment/planning/weekly-lists/> (select "north" for W2, and then scroll down to Hyde Park ward).

We are aware that there is concern locally about the issue of illegal sub-lets in our area. We are looking into the possibility of putting interested parties in contact with agencies and groups who can provide advice on this complex topic. There is a useful leaflet on the Westminster Council website at [Short Term Letting Guide 2008.pdf](#) We have confirmed with the Council that this still represents the up to date position, and their information line 020 7641 7803 is still current.

The London Forum of Civic and Amenity Societies will be holding an open meeting on Subterranean Development. The problems arising from the trend towards developing large basements under residential properties will be explored and the use of planning policies to control adverse impact will be discussed. (date to be confirmed)

Licensing

Karen Scarborough is our lead campaigner on the control of the noisy parties and concerts in the park. We are working with the Council and the Licensing Committee to monitor the safeguards that we have and ensure that the noise and litter is controlled as much as possible.

Transport

Crossrail: Oxford Street has now thankfully re-opened to buses eastbound from Marble Arch. In the Paddington area, Crossrail works for the Hammersmith & City and Circle lines station at Paddington continue. London Street will be closed from 21 May until the end of June 2012 for the first phase of waterproofing works prior to the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics. For more information about Crossrail works in Paddington, please click the following link:

<http://www.crossrail.co.uk/route/stations/paddington/paddington-station-news/#content>

Olympics

We are working closely with the Council's officers to get the best deal for local people. We are very concerned about transport and the effect of the road closures around our estate. We are also lobbying for special arrangements for residents. Our Chairman Nick Johnson is meeting regularly with Martin Low, the Council's Commissioner of Transportation.

Church Commissioners

The notice board at the corner of Connaught Street and Kendal Street has been damaged. We have taken the opportunity to propose a new notice board on the same site, and the Church Commissioners have kindly offered to help us with the design and funding of this project.

Westminster Council news

New leader of Westminster Council: our Chairman Nick Johnson has been in contact with Philippa Roe, the new leader of Westminster Council, with a view to arranging a meeting with her later this year.

We welcome our new Hyde Park Ward Councillor, Antonia Cox, who was successful in the recent by-election. Antonia can now be reached on 0207 641 3411 and via this email address:

acox@westminster.gov.uk.

St John's Church Jubilee Events

Festival Eucharist celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on Sunday 3rd June 10.00am

Parish Eucharist celebrating the 60th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's reign with orchestra and choir

Mass Setting by C. V. Stanford and R. Vaughan Williams with Zadok the Priest by G. F. Handel; O Taste and See by R. Vaughan Williams; Behold O God our Defender by H. Howells; Rule Britannia! and Pomp and Circumstance by E. Elgar

To Include a parade of **Kings and Queens** as the children of St John's process for a fancy dress competition. Followed by a fizz reception and then "**The BIG LUNCH**" - A community lunch with a long table running down the North aisle. Bring a salad and £5 for adults, children free Coronation chicken, pork pies, trifle over a glass of wine.

For more information, please see the Church's website <http://www.stjohns-hydepark.com>