

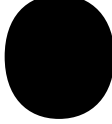
BRACKENBURY GOES GREEN



Trees soften the aspect and give real character to a road; you only have to walk down Hammersmith Grove to appreciate the effect street trees have.

So, if you are interested in greening issues and, in particular, the health and care of our trees, why not become our Tree Officer? You'll be able to liaise both with residents and the Council on issues concerning trees and planting in Brackenburg. Or, if you prefer, become a Tree Warden with responsibility for keeping an eye on the trees in 3 or 4 streets. Make a note of any vandalism, broken branches, tight ties, redundant stakes and sick trees so that the appropriate action can be taken before it is too late.

You don't have to be Alan Titchmarsh to apply, just someone who has an interest in the environment and would like to see more trees and plants growing in Brackenburg. To find out more contact Rosemary Pettit on 020 8846 9707/rosemarypettit@onetel.com



In a recent survey about the greening of London, the Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham did not score very highly. To many residents this probably comes as no surprise, but things are beginning to look up.

For instance, our neighbours in the Brook Green Association have a well organised team of tree wardens led by Evangeline Karn who recently gave a very interesting talk to BRA members about greening in general and the caring of trees in particular.

Evangeline is the Tree Officer for BGA and is helped by a team of 3 tree wardens who monitor the health and appearance of trees in individual streets. They report any dead or dying trees, ones that need tree care or have grown close to buildings or overhead wires, and any spaces they think might be appropriate for planting a new tree. Their comments and observations are then collated by Evangeline into a report that is sent to Gavin Simmons, Tree Officer at the Council. Evangeline said the Council is quite willing to plant new trees if suitable locations are identified - those outside Hammersmith Broadway tube are a very good example.

If we could get a similar system up and running in Brackenburg it could only be good for our area. Trees soften the aspect and give real character to a road; you only have to walk down Hammersmith Grove to appreciate the effect street trees have on the look and feel of our area.

BRA

Working on your behalf for a better Community

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____
 First Names _____
 Surname _____
 Address _____
 Postcode _____
 Tel: _____
 Fax: _____
 Email: _____
 Membership: _____ personal/associate

Signed: _____ Date: _____

I am particularly interested in:

I can offer expertise in:

Comments/suggestions:

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

FULL £3.00 - concession rate for over 65s £1.00
ASSOCIATE - (business, school, restaurant and the like) £10
OPTIONAL - I enclose an additional, voluntary contribution of £....

Please send this application with the completed Standing Order form below (this helps administration by our volunteer Committee and Treasurer) or, if necessary, cheque payable to Brackenburg Residents Association or cash (in person) to:

Rosemary Pettit, Membership Secretary
 45 Bradmore Park Road
 London, W6 0DT
 Tel: 0208 846 9707
 email: rosemarypettit@onetel.com

BANK STANDING ORDER MANDATE

Please make the payments detailed below, debiting my/our account as follows:

Sort Code: _____ Account No: _____
 Account Name: _____

Please pay to:

HSBC, King Street, Hammersmith
 Sort Code: 40-03-21
 Account No: 61341677
 Account Name: Brackenburg Residents Association

Immediately the sum of £_____ and thereafter the sum on 5th August annually until further notice, quoting the account name (as stated above) as reference for each payment.

To: (name of your bank and full address of branch in BLOCK CAPITALS)

BRACKENBURY RESIDENTS ANNUAL SOCIAL

Tuesday 21st February 2006

at Godolphin and Latymer School, Iffley Road.
 Doors will open at 7.00pm
 First drink FREE with ticket £3.00.

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT BUCHANANS,
 KINIEGH, FOIKARD & HAYWARD AND THE TIPSY TOAD
 OR USE THIS BOOKING FORM BELOW

Name _____
 Address _____
 Postcode _____

Please book _____ persons to the annual social on 22nd February.

I enclose a cheque (or cash, hand delivery only) for £.....

Send your booking form, with payment to:
 Diana Mather,
 29 Perrers Road,
 Brackenburg Village,
 London W6 0EY.

(tickets will be delivered to you a few days before the event)

BRA COMMITTEE MEMBERS:-

- Chairman: TONY STEPHENS
- Committee: TREEENA JINNAH
 ROSEMARY PETTIT
 STUART BLAKE
 DIANA MATHER
 MURRAY THOMAS
 TONI RAYBOULD
 RICHARD WINTERTON

WHAT WE ACHIEVED IN 2005

LESSENING THE IMPACT OF LATE-NIGHT LICENSES

This was the hot topic of 2005 with many residents airing their concerns over the impact of late-night licenses. BRA members organised residents' meetings and submitted objections to extended licensing hours and entertainment proposed by local pubs. Many thanks to all those people who took part, it was worth it. The Council has limited the more unreasonable extensions requested by publicans to more sociable hours. So those residents within earshot of the Grove, for instance, should now be able to get a good night's sleep. However, although many people's worst fears did not happen, it is still worth keeping an eye on how things progress. If you have any problems, let us know.

WINNING THE WAR ON GRAFFITI

As soon as any graffiti was reported, Toni Raybould and her team of volunteers turned out at weekends to do battle with these unsightly markings. And since our initial Graffiti Day Blitz in April 2004, we have cleared about 95% of the graffiti off our walls. It seems that the immediate removal of tags disheartens the vandals and they go elsewhere. Having seen what we achieved, the Council took up the challenge and offered free graffiti removal from residents' and business properties. They have now cleared the heavily vandalised areas in Trussley Road and Wingate Road.

Next on the list is St Johns Church wall in Ilffley Road. If you want any graffiti removed from your property just ask us or the Council for the form for permission to do the work (we'll help you complete it), then removal can start. Or you can paint it out yourself.

We'd like to thank all our regulars who turn out in almost all weathers as well as the Hammersmith & Fulham Action Team co-ordinated by Graffiti Administrator, Maureen Grimham for all their hard work. To continue winning the war on graffiti we need to know about any new tags as soon as they appear, so please contact us with location, the surface it's on (brick, plaster or paintwork), and the colour. Contact Toni Raybould on 020 8741 5279 or agtateion@yahoo.co.uk

THE INTRODUCTION OF A CRIME LOG

Even the police, who make up our local Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) in Broadway ward, have been very impressed by this BRA initiative. The Crime Log on our website went live on 1st October last year and allowed members to record (anonymously if they wished) incidents and information which were then passed on to the police. This has helped the police build up a much clearer picture of crime in our area. Log on at www.brackenbury.info

BRINGING BACK THE 'BOBBY ON THE BEAT'

Getting the police out of their cars and onto the 'beat' again has been seen by many people as one of the answers to reducing crime. In Brackenbury we are lucky enough to have our own 'bobbies on the beat' in the Safer Neighbourhood Team introduced in Broadway ward last year and enthusiastically supported. The team is made up of PC Support Officer and PCs who are currently seeking a base within the community where they can really get to know the people who live and work in Brackenbury. However, although you can contact them directly (tel no: 020 8721 2057) they are not an immediate response service. In an emergency you call 999.

MONITORING PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Through our architect Richard Winterton, BRA has been involved in a number of planning applications and appeals. In early 2004 Premier West Hotel on Glenthorne Road lost an appeal against the refusal of a major redevelopment of the site. A further application for a much moderated design was refused in October 2004, and we have not heard of any further developments in 2005 on the site. The 10 storey redevelopment of the Allied Carpet site on Goldhawk Road was refused consent in 2005 but the site owner lodged an appeal which is currently in progress. Although outside our boundaries, it would be easily visible from most of Brackenbury. We have also kept a watchful eye on the redevelopment work of the Olive Tree restaurant in Atwood Road.

CLEANER STREETS

It's taken a long time and much communication between BRA and the Council but we are glad to report that our area's street cleansing service has improved beyond measure over the last couple of years. However there are still pockets where debris accumulates so do continue to monitor the situation.

BRA WENT LIVE ON THE WEB

These days any organisation worth its salt has to have a website, and so thanks to the technical skills of Neil Studley BRA was able to launch its very own website (www.brackenbury.info) last year. It's easy to navigate and contains information about our area, from local business write-ups, current affairs, events and Council information, to information such as rubbish collection days. Some of the site is still being designed but do log on and let us know what you think. BRA produced three newsletters in 2005, one of which was distributed to all Brackenbury households. www.brackenbury.info

SOCIAL EVENTS AND VISITS

In addition to the Annual General Meeting in June, the committee hosted a Social in February at Godolphin & Laymer School. Over 80 members - old and new - turned up to share wine, news, views, gossip and jokes. So successful was the event we're doing it again this year, on February 21st.

In July BRA organised a members' visit to the Innocent juice and smoothie maker at Fruit Towers. Richard Reed, one of the co-founders, was our guide and invited us to sample the products. They were delicious.



'BOBBY ON THE BEAT'

WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO ACHIEVE IN 2006

A SUCCESSFUL 'NO JUNK JUNK MAIL' CAMPAIGN

Along with losing weight, trying jogging again, and buying only organic, preventing junk mail coming through your letterbox is one of the more difficult New Year resolutions to achieve. But it's a campaign BRA would like to kick-start since, apart from its nuisance and litter factor, the cost of recycling all this additional paper mounts up over a year and guess who will eventually end up paying for it? We will. While it's difficult to prevent junk mail being produced (people have a right to run a business and advertise), we can limit the amount being pushed through our doors. You can get a 'NO JUNK MAIL' sticker from the local library. We will also have stickers to take away at our Social in February.

GOOD RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE COUNCIL

Our committee will continue to build a strong relationship with the Council which has come to trust and listen to our point of view on a wide range of topics that concern the residents of Brackenbury. We will continue to use our influence as an important lobby group and you can be sure that in all our meetings with councillors we will maintain a position of strict political neutrality as we have always done. If you have any issues you would like raised with the Council, contact us first and we'll see if we can help. Telephone Tony Stephens, Chairman, on 020 8563 7989.

CCTV

After much BRA lobbying of local businesses and meetings with councillors and the police, there are rumours that CCTV is to be installed in Hammersmith Grove. Financing has become available and all that remains now is for the Council's technical people to complete their surveys. This is good news as these cameras deter crime by identifying offenders.

A BETTER MAIL SERVICE

The Royal Mail has slowly been getting its act together and the sorting office inadequacies, and lack of permanent staff seem to be resolving themselves. As a result, deliveries overall have improved but they can still be a bit hit and miss.

Agate/Overstone/Bradmore Park Road still seem to suffer somewhat. So, if your service is still erratic or your mail goes 'missing', do let us know via e-mail at branevs@hotmail.com and keep a log of problems so we can support you in any queries with the sorting office.

BRA MEMBERSHIP TOPS 400?

We haven't got far to go. Last October there were 320 fully paid-up members of BRA - this represented 10% of the population of the area. Remember, the bigger we are the more clout we have in dealing with issues that concern you, particularly at Council level. We can influence decisions and effect positive change in our community, but we can't do it without your help and support if we are to evolve and grow.

BRA is run by a committee of volunteers and a network of street reps who report issues affecting their street. If you are unhappy with your environment because of planning, issues, drug problems, petty crime or lack of services, BRA provides you with support and access to the right people who can help.

By joining us, you have the chance to help take the views of all residents forward and actively participate in improving your local area.

So, if you are not yet a member, do join - an application form is included as part of this newsletter.

CALLING ALL MEMBERS

You can help us to serve you better by advising us if you change your address, your telephone number or email address. If you have email - but we don't know about it - then do advise us so we can keep you posted from time to time. BRA has a newsletter, of course, but inevitably we would like to communicate with you between newsletters - and email hits the spot. Please update us by calling Rosemary Pettit on tel. 020 8846 9707, or email rosemarypettit@onetel.com.

NEWS UPDATE

No 7 Hammersmith Terrace was the home of Emery Walker, printer, antiquarian, friend and mentor to William Morris. This wonderful house with arts and crafts interiors opened to the public in 2005 and was seen by hundreds of people. It will be open again this year and we highly recommend a visit. Places for members at £10 each are limited so if you're interested act now by contacting Rosemary Pettit tel: 020 8846 9707 or rosemarypettit@onetel.com