

B·R·A·CKENBURY Residents Association

Volume 4, Issue 1

January 2005

Open your social diaries and block out Tuesday 22nd February, for you are hereby cordially invited to the Brackenburg Residents Annual Social. Join us in celebrating the end of winter with friends and neighbours.

The event will be held at Godolphin and Latymer School, Iffley Rd. Doors will open at 7.00pm.

Come and enjoy what is guaranteed to be an enjoyable night. See you there!



Editorial

- Delve into your House -

Jane Kimber, Borough Archivist, really opened doors for residents interested in researching the history of their homes. At an evening talk on 17th November, she provided a rich source of information ranging from the social evolution of the local area to strategies for carrying out your own investigations into the past lives of your house.

I went along to this talk and was amazed at just how many avenues there are to go down if I were to do some research.

Jane showcased one home on Goldhawk Road and provided historical maps, title deeds and census reports as examples of the valuable sources of information available.

Get to know your home better and do some delving. You'll be surprised at its hidden character and that of the people who lived there before you.

If you are interested, the local Archivists are only too happy to help.

Contact:

Hammersmith and Fulham Archives and Local History Centre on 0208 741 5159.

PARKING SMART

London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham's Director of Direct Services, Roger Khanna, announced at a recent committee meeting the piloting of a new 'Smart-Park' scheme in two of the borough's 24 zones.

This scheme replaces old, paper parking permits with a new parking 'credit card' that can be scanned through the window by passing traffic wardens.

The scheme is an attempt by the council to reduce permit fraud through photocopying and it looks to be quite promising. BRA Chairman Tony Stephens reported that the implementation of the new system in his area had seen a marked increase in the number of available parking spaces.

The council's plan is that eventually, Smart-Park card holders will be able to park anywhere in the borough and will be able to pay for parking by making a call on their mobile phones. This will save having to find a 'Pay and Display' machine and the often inconvenient task of having the right coins or making return trips to top-up payments.

The cost of parking (which remains at a minimum of 30 minutes), minus the cost of the call, will be billed to the mobile phone account.

In November, 40% of Brackenburg residents were using the new system but it is the council's aim that every vehicle owner must have a Smart card displayed in their window or a possible £100 fine will be levied.

News in Brief

Cleaner streets

Warm thanks go out to the local street cleaning teams. There has been a massive improvement in the frequency and quality of the services they provide, much to the appreciation of all residents, I'm sure.

Recycling

The recycling system in the borough is to undergo a council review because the current scheme does not meet the needs of the local community.

The council is faced with several issues; namely, separating garden and kitchen waste and providing more appropriate garden refuse bags to replace the plastic ones. These issues will be taken into consideration alongside current staffing and cost pressures.

The council recognises that communication has been less than adequate in the past and will be making a concerted effort to communicate all decision making to the public.

More information can be found by visiting the council website at:
<http://www.lbhf.gov.uk>

Royal Mail

A recent article in the *Spectator* by a rightfully disgruntled West London resident outlines some of the continuing problems with mail deliveries and thefts. The problems seem to be the result of sorting office issues and a lack of permanent staff. Although things have been improving, BRA urges all residents to be aware of the issues and raise them with your street rep or Royal Mail.

Planning Permissions Update

We have a lot of input into planning applications in the Brackenbury area. BRA Committee member Richard Winterton and Cllr Chris Allen are particularly active in monitoring developments and advising BRA. In particular we have been actively involved with the Duke of York, Premier West Hotel, Tesco's, Askew Rd and Iffley Rd developments, and the potential closure of the cinema in King St.

EXCITING NEW LAUNCH

The Brackenbury Residents Association, with great thanks to Neil Studley, will soon be unveiling its latest project when it officially launches a new website.

The website aims to provide a thorough, quick and easy to navigate source of information on the local area and will cover a range of topics from local business write-ups, current affairs, events and localised general information such as rubbish collection days and advertisements.

You will find it at:

<http://www.brackenbury.info>

The website is still very much in its infancy so please do log on and browse the information.

All comments will be much appreciated.

MEMBERS NEEDED

As we begin 2005, BRA goes from strength to strength, providing a real and firm voice for residents at council level. It has shown, through results, its ability to influence decision making and effect positive change in the community.

Essentially we are all volunteers and we need your support and involvement if we are to evolve and grow. Within the next year or so we expect membership to reach 300.

BRA is served by committee members and a network of street reps to make up the organisational arm of the association.

A clean and safe environment is fundamental to us all in ensuring our personal happiness and security, and that of our families. We are all individually responsible for its maintenance, for influencing council decisions and for supporting meaningful changes.

Not only does the BRA offer a means of achieving this, it organises and hosts a wide range of interesting and fun activities and events for everyone in the area and supports a strong sense of community.

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

We are only as strong as our members!

Eyes on Brackenbury

BRA committee members have been actively promoting a new initiative aimed at deterring crime in the area through the installation of CCTV and web-cams.

Local businesses were approached in the hope that they would co-operate with the scheme and either provide some funding or a site for cameras on their property. Although initial interest was shown, it seems now to be waning as the majority feel it should be a council-owned project.

Committee Chairman Tony Stephens has been in touch with Councillor Steve Cowan on the crime issue. Cllr Cowan has been negotiating with the police to bring an extra anti-crime police squad into the area. Discussions are currently taking place on where best to prioritise funding, and both the anti-crime squad and CCTV are being looked at with that in mind.

Several BRA committee members have met businesses in the area to further gain and encourage their support.

The council's own CCTV cameras are linked into a 24-hour main-frame security system. The monitoring and funding of this is shared with the police.

CCTV is believed to deter crime and is particularly useful for identifying offenders. Those caught on tape will be prosecuted and the tapes will be admissible in court, providing there is also an eye-witness. It is hoped that through linking the local and borough systems, the council security officer on duty at the time of recording will be able to act as witness in any legal proceedings.

Neighbourhood Watch

The police are aware that there has been a recent increase in crime in the area and have apologised for their lack of response.

The police department is currently undergoing changes and has said it aims to provide us with a Community Warden as soon as possible.

Graffiti Vigil

Toni Raybould and her team of volunteers continue their vigil towards keeping the neighbourhood free of unsightly graffiti.

This is a continual problem and they would appreciate your ongoing support. Toni is hoping that more volunteers will come forward and offer to join her and the team in painting over graffiti on Sundays.

Agate and Adie roads, and the streets immediately surrounding them seem to be the worst affected areas.

According to a report by Steve Gibbons of the London School of Economics, published on 13th December 2004, graffiti is more damaging to house prices, than burglary.

A photographic database of all graffiti is kept and the council is compiling a list of possible suspects through the identification of individual 'tags.' Fines have recently been increased to £2,500 for graffiti or fly-tipping.

The council cannot attempt to remove graffiti without permission from the property owners. This is because the high-pressure hoses used could cause slight damage. With the help of local residents, the consent of property owners has been obtained and the cleaning process carried out. This cannot be done free of charge as a borough-wide service as it would cost the council £1.5 million each year.

BRA has received grants of £250 from both the council and HSBC, through their community projects initiative, allowing us to cover the costs of materials.

The council and BRA would *ask that all residents take the initiative to remove graffiti from their properties.* In serious cases the council may insist that graffiti is removed or will remove it themselves and charge the property owner.

If you have just one Sunday free to help paint over graffiti in the area, please contact Toni Raybould on 0208 741 5279. Your help is very much appreciated.

Brackenbury Residents Annual Social

Tuesday 22nd February 2005 at Godolphin and Latymer School, Iffley Road.

Doors will open at 7.00pm

First drink free with ticket £3.00.

Tickets available at Buchanans, Kinleigh, Folkard & Hayward and the Topsy 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 Rosemary Pettit, Membership Secretary, 45 Bradmore Park Road, London, W6 0DT

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



BRA Committee Members:-

Welcome to

Lesley Spires: Neighbourhood Watch

Nicola Lesbirel: Tree Officer

Chair: Tony Stephens

Treasurer: James Briscoe

Secretary: Treena Jinnah

Membership

Secretary: Rosemary Pettit

Newsletter: Jay O'Brien

Social: Diana Mather

Legal: Murray Thomas

Graffiti

& Litter: Toni Raybould

Planning

& Licensing: Richard Winterton

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 Brackenbury 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: Brackenbury 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)