



# The Woodsider

January/February 2004

**A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR  
TO ALL  
OUR  
READERS!**

## Letter from the editor

Our part of Woodside Park doesn't seem to have changed much over the past four or five years. There's more traffic and there are more extensions and paved-over front gardens, but we still have our trees, our park, most of our grass verges and easy access to an unspoiled Totteridge Valley.

But around us and in the background there have been a lot of changes – and there are more to come.

There has been an unwelcome intrusion into the North Finchley skyline, increased housing density beyond the Dollis Brook and – despite the controlled parking zone – a big increase in rush-hour congestion there. And there is a lot of congestion at our other side, with Partingdale Lane closed, new houses in Frith Lane and more to come in the barracks.

There have been big changes to the political background, too. London has a mayor, Barnet has a cabinet and we now have the Whetstone Area Forum and a raft of other ways of tackling the Council and the police service.

The Association has changed as well, with the deaths of the indefatigable Bill Hampsher and three other valued committee members and the resignations of several others. We now have a re-jigged two-monthly newsletter and an annual membership survey. We have closer relations with the Council and the police,

and the annual Woodside Park Forum gives us new opportunities to question them. But, although membership has increased and there was a good attendance at last year's AGM and Forum, participation in the Association's activities has remained generally low.

What will it all look like in another five years? There will certainly be more traffic. Will the controlled parking zone be extended into the suburb? (residents of the neighbouring CPZ may otherwise make increasing use of our streets as free car parks.) Will there one day be congestion charging? Will the Inglis barracks become a giant housing estate? Will there be houses in the Totteridge Valley? Will there be blocks of flats in Sussex Ring? Will any grass verges survive?

What will happen to the Association? It is already finding it hard to recruit committee members, and it cannot long survive in its present form unless replacements can be found for its Secretary and Editor. Will the Council remain as approachable as it is now, or will continuing poor attendance prompt it to abandon Area Forums and its other forms of public access?

It is easy to forget that the answers to such questions lie at least partly in our own hands. We have a choice between influencing events and merely complaining about them. And, as the Chinese say, it is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.

## GRAFFITI

(we knew that would catch your eye !)

This is something that rears its ugly head in most areas these days. Everybody moans about it and it is very difficult to catch the vandals that do it. It makes the area look scruffy and generally, it is bad for morale. If it happens to our own property, most of us clean it off, but what happens if graffiti appears in public places, shops, parks, etc? The Association, together with the Council and the local shops, are endeavouring to eradicate the graffiti as soon as it appears. The Council has supplied us with a non-toxic graffiti cleaning pack which is designed for the benefit of all residents and shops alike. Our Treasurer, Frederick Westphal, is the self-appointed Association "graffiti buster". For months now, he has been busy removing it from the bus stops, the park seats etc and (with the help of the shopkeepers) the shopfronts at Blakes, Rose Amore and others. He is available to give advice and assistance if help is needed removing your own graffiti. Please call or email him on 8343 7201 or [fandkwestphal@ntlworld.com](mailto:fandkwestphal@ntlworld.com).

A word of thanks to the shopkeepers and residents who have removed graffiti from their own properties. Let's all keep up the good work !

## Council News – a report from Councillor Brian Coleman

At the December meeting of Barnet Council, the Cabinet Member for Social Services gave a categorical undertaking that reports in the local paper that the *Flightways* centre for the severely disabled was to close were wrong. The Council also noted that our Children's Social Services had been graded at 2 stars (out of 3) an improvement on the 1 star given by the government Inspectorate several years ago.

The Council has been successful in obtaining £27 million from the government under the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) to replace and upgrade all the streetlights in the borough. This is the first PFI obtained by Barnet and allows the Council to invest in an area of infrastructure that has been neglected for decades.

Discussions have been ongoing about the Council budget for 2004/5 after yet another poor settlement from central government. The increase in council tax will be in single figures (although the Mayor of London is proposing a 12% increase in his precept) but will mean some substantial reductions in non-statutory council services.

### Crime prevention update

London now has more policemen than ever. Barnet did not benefit from the latest increase though, partly because of its low crime rates. But it is to get 30 *Police Community Support Officers* to deal with vandalism and other anti-social behaviour and to act as the eyes and ears of the police. The Council's Neighbourhood Management and Neighbourhood Wardens have been merged into a uniformed 70-strong *Street Enforcement Service*, and they are also helping the police.

We are part of Barnet Police's North Sector, headed by Inspector Tony Scott, which includes nine north Barnet wards. Tony has two sergeants and 15 constables, including nine *Home Beat Officers*. PC Sarah Wigley is our Home Beat Officer.

*Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs)* are now being used by the police. These are promises to cease specific acts of anti-social behaviour. A refusal of, or a breach of an ABC can be used to support an application for an *Antisocial Behaviour Order*, a breach of which carries criminal penalties. We hear that Sarah Wigley has been making effective use of ABCs to deal with some youngsters who have been misbehaving near Woodside Park station.

Priority is given to crime "hot spots" such as Tally-ho Corner. That tends to divert crime into the "leafy suburbs" such as ours. The police know this and try to deal with it, but any tendency to under-report crime here would make matters worse. Our neighbourhood remains relatively peaceful, however. Only about four percent of Totteridge ward households are burgled per year, slightly fewer suffer theft of or from their cars, and fewer than one percent a year are victims of street crimes.

### A different Halloween experience

*Marilyn Kendall writes:* Our family joined with friends and neighbours to dress up and 'trick or treat' at the houses in our road, a Halloween tradition I grew up with in the US. In turn, over the course of that evening, we probably had 40 or so children visiting our home. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all and a lovely social occasion. We even met some neighbours whom we had never seen before in our seven years living in Linkside.

One of the things that makes Woodside Park special is its multi-cultural mix. We can live together side by side with neighbours of many different cultural backgrounds. I was pleased to see what used to be primarily an American tradition celebrated and integrated into our British culture. In the same way that I enjoy seeing my Asian neighbours' lights lining their drive on Diwali, Halloween has also been included in the list of autumn events to be enjoyed here in Woodside Park.

### The safer route to school

Councillors Victor Lyon and Brian Coleman joined Frith Manor's walking bus last November.

"It is not only a safe option, but is a healthy one and provides an opportunity for kids to mix together and establish friendships with each other. I congratulate their initiative and thank all who are taking part," said Council Leader Lyon.

The Kidz Conga has grown in popularity and now operates every school day except Wednesdays - 10 Wednesdays will soon be added. It was discussed recently at a national *safe routes to school* workshop, at which evidence was also presented showing that regular exercise improves children's performance at maths and English.

Application forms for pupils and parent volunteers can be obtained from the school office.

### Garden Competition

Our team of judges will be touring the suburb during the months of March to August to decide which they consider to be the best front garden. They will be looking for consistent colour and style. The winning household will be awarded a certificate and modest contribution to their gardening expenses at our September Cheese and Wine Evening.

### Fireworks nuisance

Residents have complained recently about the inconsiderate use of fireworks. We shall be looking at this before the autumn in view of the powers recently granted to councils. In the meantime we understand that the government intends to ban certain types of the noisier and more nuisance-based fireworks and is considering the introduction of firework curfews.

### Merry Christmas Carols!

Led again this year with her usual skill and verve by Colette Landucci, our traditional carol singing was an enjoyable and well-attended event. We were favoured by a break in the otherwise stormy weather that day. Our thanks go to Colette, to Real Estates for sponsoring the tree and to Blakes for supplying the electricity and to all who helped.

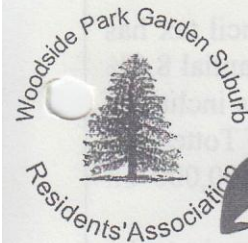
### Planning applications

There have been applications for:  
41 Lullington Garth, 15 Singleton Scarp, 25 Linkside and 43 Cissbury Ring South

### Road works 2004-5

Cissbury Ring South and Offham Slope are to be resurfaced and the pavements in Walmington Fold are to be relaid during the coming year





# The Woodsider

March/April 2004

## Letter from the editor

### Dates for your diary

The Scouts' and Brownies' Summer Fayre will be on 22<sup>nd</sup> May.  
Our AGM and Woodside Park Forum will be on 16<sup>th</sup> June.  
Further details in our next issue.

A stated object of the Association is to safeguard the amenities enjoyed by its members. So the late Bill Hampsher used to object to extensions because they could lead to unwanted increases in population density, congestion and pollution. Objections on those grounds had little effect and the practice was abandoned. But there is still a conflict of interest between those who need more housing and those who want to keep things as they are. This is an issue that the Association may one day have to face - possibly soon.

House prices are rising mainly because not enough new houses are being built - for which the planning system and the green belt regulations are partly responsible. This is good news for house-owners, except that there are drawbacks. Lack of affordable housing could make it difficult to recruit teachers for our children, nurses for our hospitals and policemen for our streets. Some of the government's advisers are even claiming that it makes the whole country a lot worse off.

Attempts to tackle those drawbacks are sure to be fiercely resisted. The introduction of *affordable housing* within an existing estate in a nearby Barnet ward caused furious protests at

the Whetstone Forum a few years back and probably cost one Councillor his job. Small incursions into the Green Belt - such as that proposed for the Barnet football stadium - have also run into strong local opposition.

Aware of such local resistance, the government are considering moving some planning powers from the boroughs to county councils and government departments. Barnet councillors may then find their objections dismissed as NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard). They may also be asked whether the amenity value that residents place on local green belt land is really greater than its value for housing.

Our part of Woodside Park has not had to face these problems yet. But sooner or later the pressures that have led to the enormous increases in housing density on the other side of Dollis Brook will also be felt here. As I suggested in January's Woodsider, there could be moves to build flats in Sussex Ring and houses on the green belt in Lullington Garth and behind Southover. We are due in any case to see a lot more houses and flats in Frith Lane.

Should we wait until these things look like happening? Or should we try to sort out our policy now?

### Crime prevention - the outlook

Our home beat officer Constable Sarah Wigley is part of a team consisting of two sergeants, 15 constables and eight Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), reporting to Inspector Tony Scott. The team is dedicated to a sector which includes nine north Barnet wards.

That is due to change under the Metropolitan Police's *Step Change* plan.

It is intended to give each of London's electoral wards a team consisting of one sergeant, two constables and three PCSOs. The Met says that the new teams will be dedicated to consulting local people, tackling the crimes that the community identifies as most important, and providing a more visible presence on the street. The change will require an increase in Metropolitan Police numbers to 35,000 from its present record 30,000.

Step Change is not expected to be completed until 2007, but a start has been made in several London boroughs. Each of the Barnet wards of Colindale, Burnt Oak and Childs Hill now has its own Step Change team. Priority is, as usual, being given to the wards which have the highest crime rates. That means that Step Change may not come to our own Totteridge ward, with its relatively low crime rate, for some years to come. When it does, the Association will be expected to play its part in passing on your concerns to the new team.

Until then, committee members will continue to attend meetings of the Barnet Police Consultative Group and the Whetstone Police Sector Group. If you have matters that you wish your representatives to raise at those meetings, please call Fred Westphal (8343 7201) or Nick Gardner (8922 0847)

### Council News - a report from Councillor Brian Coleman

The Council budget will be set at a Council meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The level of rise of Council tax has been set at 6.8% (which includes a precept rise from the Mayor of London of 7.5% and a substantial 8.8% rise from the North London Waste Authority). There are also £13 million of service reductions including the deletion of 250 Council jobs. Most front line services have been protected but the closure of Totteridge Library was a particularly difficult decision forced on the Council by the need to spend £400,000 on making the building compatible with the new disabled discrimination act.

On a positive note, the new Council-imposed alcohol-free zone in North Finchley is to be launched on March 2<sup>nd</sup> with enthusiastic support on the enforcement front from the new Borough Police Commander Chief Superintendent Ricketts. The zone will drive out the street drinkers that can be intimidating in North Finchley and has no affect on licensed premises. Further zones will operate at Finchley Central and Hendon Central.

#### Warning: danger of parking fines

What can be done if inconsiderate parking restricts visibility when you try to leave your drive? The Council will not act unless the law is being broken - and then (usually) only in response to a complaint. If the driver has parked with wheels on the pavement, he has committed an offence and he can be fined.

In response to a complaint the parking enforcement team may also fine others who are found parking on the pavement, including unsuspecting neighbours. Residents who had long been accustomed to pavement parking may then find themselves unexpectedly penalised.

This seems to have been happening recently in Offham Slope and at the top end of Lullington Garth.

We are monitoring the situation, but it is not clear what can be done about it.

#### Local Concert

The Tudor Symphony Orchestra is to hold a concert at Trinity Church Nether Street, starting at 8pm on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May. (Tickets £7.50, concessions £6.00, children £2.00 - call 8954 7302 to book.)

The programme will include the Schubert Unfinished Symphony, the Mozart Flute Concerto and the Bruch Violin Concerto.

The conductor is Trevor Williams who played for the BBC Symphony Orchestra for many years, as well as other top UK orchestras and is a violin professor at the Royal Academy of Music. The leader is Gillian Cohen, a local violin teacher.

The orchestra would welcome new string and brass players of all abilities. If you would like to join them, please call them on 8954 7302.

#### Local Talent

Peter Butler is a carpenter tel 07944 720 637

Peter Mansi is a general handyman tel 07950 465718

Theresa arranges group theatre bookings tel 8346 7217

Maria arranges antique furniture restoration tel 07976 633083

Maggie is a hairdresser tel 07941 564114

#### Library news

The Totteridge library is to close for good on 31<sup>st</sup> March.

The Hendon library will remain closed for refurbishing until late Summer.

The mobile library which is normally in the playground of Frith Manor School on Wednesday afternoons, will be parked outside the school in Lullington Garth during the rebuilding. It will be there from 2.30 to 4 and is not likely to be busy until school stops at 3.20.

The mobile library will be at Sussex Ring as usual every Saturday from 11.30 am until 4pm.

#### The proposed mast at Sussex Ring

The company that wants to erect a mast and cabinet at Sussex Ring has appealed against the Council's refusal of planning permission.

We have written to the inspector on behalf of the Association reiterating our objections to the proposal. We pointed out that the site is not suitable for the proposed mast and cabinet, that a tree was to be planted on the same site as a venue for our Christmas carol singing, and that the company have not demonstrated a need to use this particular site nor established that no suitable alternative site exists.

On those grounds we urged the inspector to dismiss the appeal.

#### Partingdale delays

We were told at the Woodside Park Forum last June that the Council were planning to conduct another consultation in the Autumn about the proposal to reopen Partingdale Lane. We have been trying to find out why it has been held up and when it is to happen.

However, Mel Simpson of the Partingdale Lane Residents' Association is reported to have complained that the Council is biased in our favour because of the report of a delay in the November *Woodsider*.

Perhaps that is why we are being kept in the dark?

#### Our Christmas tree

Thanks to the Council, and to Councillor Coleman in particular, we now have a live, growing Christmas tree in Sussex Ring.

It will be some years before it gets as big as our usual tree but from now on we won't have to buy and insure any more conifers.

#### Local Villainy

These are some of the capers that Barnet's tea-leaves have been up to:

- pushing fishing rods through letterboxes to remove car keys that are left in halls;
- removing the last two cheques from the banks - and then cashing them;
- obtaining people's credit card numbers by pretending to telephone them from an issuing bank.

#### Text the Council!

You can now text the Council on 07781 473279 or speak to them on 8359 4000.

#### Planning Applications

A roof extension is planned at 56 Lullington Garth.





# The Woodsider

July/August 2004

## Letter from the Chairman – a personal view

I was mildly amused the other day to find that the “SLOW DOWN” signs on Frith Lane had lost some of their letters and now read “OW OW”. Somehow, this seems more apt than “Slow Down” because if you speed along that stretch of the road and you hit someone or something, “Ow Ow” or other words comprising four letters or so will more than likely be expressed. But then I thought that it must be something to do with Councillor Coleman’s road safety directives. Get rid of the humps and save money on the electricity required for SLDN in the sign - all at the same time – a cunning ruse. Alternatively, if we all drove at the correct speed, no electricity would be required. No sign would be required either.

Brian Coleman has set himself up to be shot down the moment there is an accident on a patch where the humps or speed reduction obstacles have been removed or lessened. Whatever you may think about these issues, in my mind he has acted bravely in the face of some extremely stiff opposition and I am pleased that he has been re-elected as GLA representative with a small swing (six iron I believe) in his favour. I congratulate him but I fear that the “nanny state” has overtaken us all.

Why am I sucking up to Brian Coleman, you might ask? Well!!! He is on the Greater London Assembly. He and his fellow GLA members will have some control over Mayor Livingstone’s expenditure which has already added some £300 to our Council Tax bill. In the past, Barnet Council has conveniently been able to blame Mayor Livingstone for this. Well, no more will you be able to do this, chaps. That is it!! Finito!! I am therefore expecting to see a drop in the Council Tax next year – and not before time.

And there is plenty of room at the Council to cut back. A local woman was recently taken to court by the Council for pruning an oak tree without permission. The tree did not die and will be fine in a couple of years. She was a perfectly respectable woman and did not understand that permission was required. In mitigation and as a penance, she offered to make a payment to Barnet’s Tree Campaign of £1,000. The Council would not accept this. They took her to court. She got a conditional discharge but had to pay £500 in court fees which equated to just one third of Barnet Council’s costs. So the Council lost £1,000 instead of gaining a £1,000 all because of some “Jobsworth” in the Solicitor’s Department in the Council. Until the Council starts taking a more rational approach to these sorts of issues, we will be stuck with more and more bureaucracy and higher and higher tax bills.

I am awaiting the arrival of the homeless gentleman who resided in the park last year and wonder if he will re-appear.

We look forward to seeing you at the Cheese and Wine on 7<sup>th</sup> September.

*Robert Shutler*

come to our friendly

## CHEESE AND WINE EVENING

at the

## Old Finchleians Clubhouse (Southover)

Starting at 7.30pm Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September

Admission (members only) £3

## Best-kept front garden competition

The winners will be notified on 3<sup>rd</sup> September and their awards will be presented to them at the cheese and wine evening.

## Council News – a report from Councillor Brian Coleman

The Leader of the Council has reshuffled his Cabinet and the new Cabinet Member for the Environment (replacing me) is Councillor Matthew Offord. Other new Cabinet members are Cllr John Marshall (Education), Cllr Fiona Bulmer (Social Care) and Cllr Chris Harris (Children). I have become Deputy Mayor of the Borough.

Woodside Park residents will be pleased to learn that progress has been made on the issue of the future of Darlands Nature Reserve in the Totteridge Valley, with the Council agreeing to fund capital works to repair the dam during the summer of 2005. This will end the risk of flooding and allow management arrangements to secure the future of the site to be made with a voluntary trust.

Delays continue at North Finchley on the Arts Centre development, the opening date having now been postponed for a month till November, a new Board of Directors has been appointed to give it a more professional direction. The alcohol free zone is being rigorously enforced by the police and the first court appearance has already taken place.

### The Inglis Barracks site

The Ministry of Defence plans to leave the Inglis Barracks site in the year 2006. The construction of a housing estate on the site could begin in the following year. To meet GLA targets, 2,000 homes would be built, implying a housing density several times that of our Woodside Park Garden Suburb.

The Council has been discussing procedures with Annington Homes and the Notting Hill Housing Trust with a view to commissioning consultants to produce a local development document in the course of the next 12 months. Consultations with interested organisations about the content of that document might be expected to begin within the next month or two.

The Council’s planners have promised to keep your committee informed of developments.

### Consultation under the new Planning Act

The Council intends to publish its draft *Statement of Community Involvement*, as required by the new Act, by the end of 2004. It is expected to list those organisations that it will consult both informally and formally on major planning issues. It should also set out the various points at which the Council will involve the community in preparing local development documents and define the methods of consultation to be used.

Your committee will be monitoring these developments on your behalf.

### First steps to weight-loss and fitness

Feeling unfit, fat and fed up?

Do you want to do something about it?

Lavinia’s *First Steps* class uses fun, motivating and simple routines plus body-toning exercises.

The class meets every Wednesday from 1.30 to 2.15pm at the Woodside Park Club. The fee is £4 a session.

For further information call Lavinia on 8440 7340.

### The Tudor Symphony Orchestra

This is your own local amateur orchestra and new players are warmly welcomed. There are always vacancies for string and brass players and occasionally for wind players. All abilities are acceptable and there is no audition. The orchestra has a professional leader (Trevor Williams), a local violin teacher (Gillian Cohen) and a professional principal cello (Chris Irby), so there is plenty of help and advice available. The orchestra meets to rehearse and give concerts in the Trinity Church Centre at 15 Nether Street, N12. The next concert is scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> December. If you would like to join, meet them there along with your instrument at 7:30pm on September 27<sup>th</sup>. For further information telephone 8954 7302.

### The Woodside Park Forum 2004

On the panel were Councillor Victor Lyon (Ward Councillor and Council Leader), Chief Superintendent Mark Ricketts (Barnet Borough Commander, Metropolitan Police), Councillor Brian Coleman (GLA and Ward Councillor), Councillor Kevin Edson (Ward Councillor), Reginald Herring (Head Teacher, Frith Manor School), Inspector Joe McGlone (Head of Barnet North Sector, Metropolitan Police), Theo Panayi (Principal Highways Engineer) Sergeant Chris Berrell (Metropolitan Police) and Sara Lord (Street Enforcement Service Coordinator).

Councillor Lyon said that no firm agreement had been reached about the future of the Inglis Barracks site, and that the Council would do its best to resist GLA pressure for high density housing there. No housing development would be permitted on land held by the Finchley Golf Club. There were no plans for a CPZ in our area. Commander Ricketts reported that *Step Change* manning now operates in three wards and would be in six more wards next year, but that Totteridge Ward was low on the priority list. Hopefully, the review of the Met’s *Resource Allocation Formula* may lead to more police for Barnet. Mr Herring estimated that the first phase of school rebuilding would be completed by October and the larger second phase by January 2006. There would then be morning and afternoon intakes of 52 nursery places. Mr Panayi could not offer a firm date for the promised Partingdale Lane consultation. Many other questions were answered.

### The AGM 2004

After the Chairman’s review of the year, the Treasurer reported a subscription total of £718. The surplus for the year was £84 leaving a balance of £919. £102 had been spent on the cheese and wine evening, and £184 on the Christmas tree.

It was resolved to raise the annual subscription to £2.

Robert Shutler was re-elected Chairman, and Nick Gardner and Fred Westphal were re-elected Secretary and Treasurer. The other members of the committee were confirmed as Anita Bernstein, Stephen Coulson, Simon Goodwin, Elizabeth Kendle, Jonathan Ladipo, Estelle Phillips, John Robinson and Kiyotaka Suzuki. Jacqueline Weiner did not seek re-election and was thanked for her valuable service to the Association. The Chairman also thanked the committee for its work, and especially its Secretary and Treasurer.

### No mast at Sussex Ring!!

The appeal against the Council’s refusal of planning permission for the mast at Sussex Ring has been rejected.

Our thanks to all who wrote in support of the Association’s campaign.





# The Woodsider

September/October 2004

Letter from the Chairman - a personal view

Don't forget our  
**CHEESE AND WINE EVENING**  
 7.30pm  
**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September**  
 Old Finchleians Clubhouse

Ahhhh!! Summer time!! It has nearly gone but it was the time for tweeting birds, rustling trees, splatters of rain, the holiday season, peace and goodwill to all men, Euro2004, Wimbledon and the Olympics.

... And the sound of builders banging, drilling, driving their lorries into the local lamp-posts (Saddlescombe Way), skips, building material delivery, breaking pavements and kerbstones, blaring radios, reverberating builderspeke, etc. etc.

At the moment, everywhere I look in the Suburb there seems to be building works. Skip lorries abound. Contractors vehicles spread out across the streets like beached whales, often parked on grass verges or pavements, sometimes parked across drives and with little respect for other people around.

I have recently been contacted by numerous concerned residents with complaints about builders and worries about neighbours who are presently building or who

are about to build. At the moment, there are some stark examples in the area of extremely poor behaviour by builders and their Clients. Bits of plastic sheeting flap noisily around in the wind, scaffolding is not cleaned down each day with the result that redundant objects fly off the scaffolds in high winds, internal walls are removed with no apparent regard for the structure of the house nor the adjacent property. It seems to me that neighbours in the Suburb do not talk to each other and if we all just had a little regard and thought for our neighbours and told them what was going on, life would be far simpler. Quite often the neighbour has to suffer through the building work as well as the resident.

I am particularly concerned to see that many of the builders appear not to be properly registered. Many are certainly not what I would call professional and many do not seem to follow the rules and regulations set down by the Council, particularly the Building Regulations and Health and Safety Regulations.

Some do not speak English, which makes it difficult to talk to them, and some are obviously moonlighting and operating tax avoidance schemes.

Finally, there are laws relating to party walls and boundary fences which seem to be generally disregarded by residents. These are in place to safeguard both the resident and the neighbour. If you are working on the fence or the party wall you need agreement with your neighbour.

By now, I trust you will all have seen the government's guidelines for what to do in the event of a terrorist attack. More about this in another issue of The Woodsider.

In the meantime, you should note that constructing extensions and loft conversions are not seemingly listed in the government's brochure as a priority measure - unless, of course, these are nuclear shelters!!

I hope you all enjoyed the summer and that autumn will prove to be good building weather.

Editor's Note: For more about the Party Wall Act and the building regulations ask for the Woodsider booklet on extensions.

**Recent Planning Applications**

Single storey extensions  
 64 Chanctonbury Way  
 25 & 33 Lullington Garth  
 6 Poynings Way  
 19 & 58 Walmington Fold

Loft conversions  
 34 & 39 Cissbury Ring North  
 84 Cissbury Ring South  
 24 Lullington Garth  
 29 Singleton Scarp  
 9 Walmington Fold  
 6 Wolstonbury

Two storey side extensions  
 34 Cissbury Ring North (with rear extension)  
 9 Poynings Way  
 17 Saddlescombe Way (with rear extension)

**Council News - a report from Councillor Brian Coleman**

The Council in conjunction with the police have conducted a successful campaign during July and August to tackle anti social behaviour especially among young people by use of the "curfew" provisions of recent legislation that means groups of young people can be escorted home after a certain time. It has been piloted in the East Barnet and Brunswick Park wards and also used in conjunction with other measures at Tally Ho.

The Council's new Premier Parks policy has been launched which will allow restoration and improvement works to be targeted on 20 parks in the Borough (the whole population will be with 1 mile of one of these parks) whilst allowing for routine maintenance on the rest of nearly 200 open spaces for which the Council is responsible. Victoria Park, Finchley and Swan Lane are Premier Parks.

**The Partingdale Lane Procrastination.**

*The following statement was issued by the committee of the Woodside Park Garden Suburb Residents' Association on 3<sup>rd</sup> September.*

In 2002, Victor Lyon's administration was elected on a promise to re-open Partingdale Lane. All that has happened since has been a catalogue of failure:

- failure to challenge unsupported statements made about the Lane in the High Court;
- failure to appeal against the questionable High Court ruling by Judge Singh; and,
- failure for over a year to launch a consultation about the future of the Lane.

Victor Lyon has ignored our request for a timetable of further action. In view of his administration's record, this suggests a prospect of further procrastination.

Perhaps they have mistaken our members' patience for resignation? If so, we must put them right. Our members are not resigned to being deprived - for no good reason - of the use of public property that is being maintained at their expense. And they are not resigned to the daily congestion and increased journey times that many of them have had to suffer. They know that they have suffered a serious injustice. On their behalf we blamed the previous administration for creating that injustice, and we now blame the present administration for prolonging it.

We do not accept the Council's (implied) claim that Judge Singh's injunction justifies continued secrecy about their intentions. Our members are entitled to be told when the consultation is to be held, when the result is to be announced, when a decision is to be made, and when - if it is decided to do so - Partingdale Lane is to be re-opened. They are also entitled to a detailed justification for any delays in that sequence.

**Best-kept front garden competition awards**  
 (for care, style and colourfulness over the past six months)

The **first prize** of a £50 voucher from Finchley Nurseries goes to:

Mr George Croft of 47 Walmington Fold

The **second prize** of a £30 voucher from Wyevale Garden Centres goes to

Mr & Mrs Bathena of 24 Wolstonbury

The **third prize** of a £20 voucher from B&Q goes to

Mr Rome of 12 Cissbury Ring North

Our congratulations to the winners, and our thanks to Finchley Nurseries, Wyevale Garden Centres and B&Q.

**The Secretary's notebook**

**A personal appeal**

I have decided not to seek re-election to the committee next June. The committee will then need someone to take on the secretarial tasks of issuing agendas and minutes and writing the occasional letter. These are not difficult tasks, and previous experience of such work is not needed. But they would best be done by someone who is already familiar with the work of the committee. If you would be prepared to give up a few hours of your spare time every two months, please consider joining the committee now with a view to becoming its secretary next June.

**Trick and treat: some personal suggestions.**

Most children enjoy dressing up and showing off, and the return of the ancient custom of trick and treat gives them a chance to do so. But not all residents welcome their calls.

To make sure that the children enjoy the experience, there is something to be said for calling only on people to whom they are known - and on people who show that they welcome such calls by leaving an outside light on or displaying Halloween symbols such as a pumpkin mask.

My suggestions for making and receiving the calls are:

- a maximum age of twelve,
- an adult to be present (in the background),
- treats to be edible,
- tricks to cause no more than a momentary inconvenience.

**Mel Simpson**

I was sad to learn of the death of Mel Simpson, Chairman of the Partingdale Lane Residents' Association. I offer my condolences to his family.

*Nick Gardner*

**Local events**

The **Incognito Theatre Company** is putting on a performance of Under Milk Wood at their Friern Barnet theatre from 12<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> September. The theatre is behind the health centre in Holly Park Road. Performances start at 6pm on Sunday 12th September and at 8pm during the remainder of the week. Tickets from Graham Sawtell on 8361 8310 (Prices range from £6 to £8, £5 for students)

The **First Steps to Weight loss and Fitness** class will be restarting at Woodside Park Club, Southover N12 on Wednesday 8th. September at 1.30 - 2.15pm. Cost £4.00. For further information call Lavinia on 8440 7340.





# The Woodsider

November/December 2004

## Letter from the Editor

The quality of life here in Woodside Park seems to be improving. Fewer problems were mentioned by residents in this year's membership survey than at any time in the last three years. There seems to be an impression that we are suffering less graffiti and vandalism, fewer burglaries or road accidents, not so many uneven pavements and hardly any potholes.

Does this mean that we should now relax, forget about Council meetings and consultations, and just enjoy our social activities?

I don't think so.

The fact is that the Council is quietly making long-range plans that could greatly change the quality of life here. We shall be putting our future - and our children's future - at risk unless we keep in touch with the Council's activities and take advantage of every opportunity to draw attention to their shortcomings.

As I remarked in my March/April editorial, the pressures that have led to the increases in housing density on the other side of Dollis Brook will sooner or later be felt here. To make matters worse, the Council is planning a further enormous increase in the borough's housing stock. Some estimates put that increase as high as 45,000 dwellings (over 30%) over the next 12 years.

The proposed two-thousand-unit Mill Hill East housing estate on the Inglis Barracks site will have a big direct effect upon life in Woodside Park. The planned construction elsewhere in the borough could have even greater and wider indirect effects.

Unless adequate infrastructure provisions are made, our future could be plagued by congestion, pollution and flooding and by shortages of - or excessively long journeys to - schools and medical facilities.

The Council's plans will eventually be open to detailed inspection and they will hold exhibitions and public consultations. There will then be a lot of promotional material from the Council, but it is not to be expected that the full implications of their plans will become evident on casual inspection. Before those public events the Council must consult residents' associations and other interested organisations in accordance with their forthcoming *Statement of Community Involvement*.

We shall need people on our committee who will monitor the Council's plans, press the Council for improvements where they are needed, and otherwise take full advantage of those opportunities to protect our future. If you want to play your part, please consider joining.

*PS: Socrates' arguments (overleaf) may help you decide whether you can spare the time!*

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

come and join us at our annual



## Carol Singing

at  
4.30pm  
on  
Saturday 18th  
December  
at  
Sussex Ring

Free refreshments

Please bring your children



### Christmas Lights at the Hospice

The Hospice will again be celebrating *Light Up A Life* this year. Donors are welcome at the lighting-up ceremony on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November at 4.30pm when a local celebrity will switch the lights on. The lights will shine throughout the month of December between 4 pm and 9 pm. Call 8446 2288 to make a donation for a light in a loved-one's memory.

### Council News - a report from Councillor Brian Coleman

On Greater London Authority matters, the Mayor of London has announced his transport investment plans that unfortunately mean there is little likelihood of the North Circular Road improvements at Bounds Green, Henlys Corner and Brent Street proceeding. Barnet and Enfield Councils have not ruled out legal action against Transport for London (which is chaired by the Mayor and responsible for the North Circular Road) on the matter.

There are also to be substantial above-inflation bus and tube fare rises in January, with Transport for London admitting to deep financial difficulties. On the subject of financial difficulties, Barnet are introducing immediate measures to cut £5 million from current year budgets to prevent an overspend. Jobs being cut should not affect "frontline services", promises the Chief Executive.

Barnet Council has recently given planning approval for two controversial developments. A massive rebuild of the Stonegrove Estate at Edgware and a residential development on the site of Hendon Football Club near Brent Cross that will allow Hendon to move to a refurbished Cophthall Stadium.

#### Finding the time

(Some recently-discovered Socratic dialogue.)

**Crito:** I should be willing to join your democracy project, Socrates, if only I could find the time.

**Socrates:** That is public-spirited of you, Crito. Of the time ahead of you that you have not already committed to other purposes, how much would you be willing to spare? A quarter? A tenth? A twentieth?

**Crito:** I could spare a twentieth for such a worthy cause.

**Socrates:** How many hours do you apply to your chosen vocation each week?

**Crito:** I work from eight o'clock to six, five days a week.

**Socrates:** In addition to those 50 hours, would you accept - for the sake of argument - that it would be sufficient to allow eight hours a day for sleep and four hours a day for meals (and ablutions)?

**Crito:** I agree.

**Socrates:** You have accepted that, of the 168 hours that there are in a week, you need no more than 134 hours for work, sleep and meal; leaving 34 hours for activities of your choice. Of those 34 hours, would you accept - for the sake of argument - an allowance of 14 hours a week for hobbies and family activities?

**Crito:** I agree.

**Socrates:** Thank you, Crito; the four hours a month - that you have agreed that you can find for it - is more than you will need for my project. Here is a list of symposiums that you should attend.

**Crito:** I only agreed for the sake of argument!

**Socrates:** The symposiums will give you some more practice.

(Socrates' arithmetic:-	
7 days @24hrs	168
less:	
work 5 days @10hrs	50
sleep 7days @ 8hrs	56
meals & c 7 @ 4hrs	28
	134
free	34
less: hobbies, & family	14
available	20
one twentieth of which is one hour a week or about four hours a month)	

#### Partingdale Lane update

Following the postal consultation, this Association and others are to be consulted and are to be given until December 15<sup>th</sup> to reply. After the consultants have analysed the returns, their findings are to be made available to the Council for decision by its Cabinet, possibly in February.

#### The Inglis Barracks Site

The Council's Cabinet has approved the preparation of a draft development framework for what is to be known as the Mill Hill East Triangle.

The borough's planners expect it to provide for a significant element of high quality larger houses, a school, and either a business park or a research park.

The draft is to be the subject of a public consultation and exhibition in May/June of next year, after which it is to be submitted for the Cabinet's approval.

Following the incorporation of amendments and a further public consultation, it is expected to be approved by the Cabinet by next autumn as a statutory *Area Action Plan* which will then provide the basis for the preparation of future planning applications and environmental assessments.

Discussions with residents' associations' representatives are expected to precede the formal public consultations.

#### Planning applications

Applications have been received for: 1A and 23 Folkington Corner, 71 and 72 Chanctonbury Way, 16 Offham Slope, 73 Walmington Fold, 17 Saddlescombe Way (revisions), 82 Lullington Garth and 6 Poynings Way and 22 Wolstonbury.

#### Local Talent

Please let the editor know if you are a member who offers a service to fellow-woodsiders (My apology to another local talent whose details I have lost! Ed.)

Peter Butler is a carpenter tel 07944 720 637

Peter Mansi is a general handyman tel 07950 465718

Theresa arranges group theatre bookings tel 8346 7217

Maria arranges antique furniture restoration tel 07976 633083

Maggie is a hairdresser tel 07941 564114

#### Local Events

(to book or get details call \*)

- *Peter Pan* at **The Chicken Shed Theatre** 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> December. \* 8292 9222

- Michael Frayn's *Alarms and Excursions* at **The Incognito Theatre** 5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> December. \* 8361 8310.

- The music of *Brahms, Vaughan Williams and Haydn* performed by the **Tudor Symphony Orchestra**. 11<sup>th</sup> December. \* 8954 7302

- A *carol concert* by the **Finchley Choral Society** on 11<sup>th</sup> December. \* 8445 9666

- A *Christmas concert* by the **Finchley Chamber Orchestra and Choir** on 12<sup>th</sup> December. \* 8440 1899

