

# Views from the Hill



NEWSLETTER OF THE TEWKESBURY LODGE ESTATE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Autumn 2016

## TLERA Fireworks Party?

Unfortunately, as mentioned in our last newsletter, it has become increasingly difficult to get insurance cover for non-commercial firework events. The only company we were able to find who would offer such cover was prohibitively expensive and would only cover us for this event rather than all our events. Regrettably, the Association has had to accept that after several decades of holding a successful Fireworks event for members, the last 14 years being at Horniman School, we could no longer afford to continue to do so.

The good news is that the Committee has planned two new events to lighten the darkening evenings – a family harvest afternoon and a carol singing party.

Details of these follow and we hope that you will agree that the new events will be worth developing and becoming regular items in the TLERA calendar.



Printed on recycled paper



No fizz bang wallop

## Autumn harvest event

TLERA is introducing this new event on Saturday 8 October to celebrate the season of 'mist and mellow fruitfulness'. Children can have fun planting bulbs to take away and grow at home, creating leaf and seed pictures, making



lavender bags, and playing some pumpkin-themed games. Meanwhile, adults can try their hand at fruit pressing (bring your own apples or pears if you have any), and can share ideas and recipes for cooking or preserving fruit and vegetables. To show what can be done with seasonal crops, hot homemade soups such as butternut squash and sweet potato, leek and potato etc. will be available, as well as crusty bread, cheese and apples. Pumpkin pie and apple and almond cake will also be on the menu.

The event will take place between 1 and 4 pm at Hilltop, 28 Horniman Drive. The conservatory and covered veranda will provide protection if it rains, so the event is weatherproof! We hope that you will enjoy this new event and will give us your ideas on how it might be developed in future years.

*Footnote: If you need a helping hand to pick your fruit or collect windfalls, one or more garden group members can help out. Contact Frankie Locke on 020 8699 2548.*

## Dates for your diary

- *Autumn Harvest event*  
Saturday, October 8th between 1-4pm, Hilltop, 28 Horniman Drive.
- *Carols by Candlelight in the Triangle*  
Sunday, December 4th at 5pm in the

Triangle between Horniman Drive and Rocombe Crescent.

### • *AGM*

This has been postponed until January, date to be advised.

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## Carols by candlelight

Our second new event is Carols by Candlelight with mulled wine and mince pies in the Triangle. Six talented members who sing in choirs have volunteered to help out by leading the singing, and carol sheets will be available so we can all join in! We may even do a walkabout on nearby roads for those not able to get to the Triangle.

This will take place on Sunday 4 December at 5pm in the Triangle between Horniman

Drive and Rocombe Crescent. So do come along and, if you can, bring a lantern or candle in a jar to light our way.

We should love to have some musicians and more singers. If you enjoy singing, can play an instrument to accompany the carols and other seasonal songs, and would like to join the small group before the evening, do let Bea Jackson know by calling her on 020 8699 7143.

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## 20mph zone now in force

Given the new road markings, it would not have escaped your notice that the Estate is now officially a 20mph zone! From the beginning of September, a Borough-wide 20mph upper speed limit was introduced on all roads except those managed by Transport for London, which includes the South Circular (A205), New Cross Road (A202), Bromley Road leading to Lewisham High Street (A21) and Lewisham Way leading to Lee High Road (A20).

The Council recognise that not everyone will be aware from the outset of the need to drive within the new speed limit, but compliance is expected to increase over time. 'Before and after' speed audits are being carried out on a number of roads, and traffic calming measures

will be implemented for roads with low compliance.

However, the police have said the 20mph speed restrictions will be treated in the same way as any other speed limit. So watch that speedometer!



*Preparations for the most sophisticated game of Hop-Scotch ever played...*



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## Chair's report

I am delighted to say that since the last newsletter, we now have not only a new secretary but also an assistant secretary – Tina Hildred and Frankie Locke respectively. In addition, Cathy Ruiz has volunteered to take over from Leanne Panni as road representative for Netherby Road and Sydmonds Court. Our thanks to all three new Committee members, and to Leanne for all she has done to help with the work of the Association. We still need another road representative to help Rita Zarvou cover the central

section of Westwood Park, so if you can help do contact me on 020 8699 8432.

For several reasons we were not able to organise our Summer Picnic this year. However, we hope that you will be able to come along to the two new events planned for the rest of this year. And if you have any suggestions for other events TLERA could organise do let us know.

*Valerie Ward, Acting Chair*

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## Crime Cascade

We aim to alert members to any reported criminal activity so they can take extra precautions to protect their homes and vehicles. However, we need your e-mail address to enable us to include you. At present, only about 60% of members have given us their email addresses, and the Association would like to improve on this. Although still a low crime area, the last year has seen an increase in burglaries and attempted break-ins - you may even have seen something

that might help the police to identify a potential suspect. E-mailing is also a good way to let you know about local news and events organised by the Association. We will only use your email address for such purposes and it will not be passed on to any third party.

If you would like to add your email address to our records and haven't yet returned your subscription envelope, you can do so by

completing the relevant section on the envelope. If you have already paid your 2016-17 subscription (thank you!), you can send your

details to the Membership Secretary at [membership@tewkesburylodge.org.uk](mailto:membership@tewkesburylodge.org.uk). Please include your house number and road name.

## Horniman carnival



Judging by the crowds in front of the Bandstand as we arrived on Sunday lunchtime, the Carnival in the Horniman Gardens was proving a big success from the start. Food vans and stalls offering a range of delicious looking snacks, including hot dogs, burritos, ice cream, fresh fruit and juices, were all proving very popular. Families and groups were picnicking on the lawn while others relaxed in the deck chairs and took in the wonderful views.

Children enjoyed the colourful giant puppets displayed near the prehistoric garden. A brilliant Brazilian band played in the bandstand.

The Carnival atmosphere really kicked off though with the sound of drums and the first of a number of colourful parades through the gardens. Dancers in fabulous costumes gyrated to the pulsating beat generated by the enthusiastic band and people followed behind, developing into a full procession into the focal point and natural theatre of the sunken garden - a wonderful spectacle of vibrant colour and sound.

*Tina Hildred*



*Carmen, Josita and Conchita Miranda.*

## Tree Watch

In our last newsletter, we highlighted the poor health of many of our street trees. Sub-standard repairs to pavements where asphalt completely surrounded the trunk, together with weeds around the base of the trees, leaves them competing for nutrients and unable to access rainwater. The trees suffer, and roots come to the surface to find water. Not only is the resultant damage to pavements hazardous to pedestrians, but the Council has to spend money on repairs at a time of ever decreasing budget cuts.

The Association, led by Stuart Checkley, is planning to undertake an audit of all the trees on the Estate and then approach the Council to see how the situation can be improved. In some cases, this may require them to remove the tarmac from around the base of some trees, reduce the overall height of mature trees where necessary, and in one case prune overhanging branches from around the Triangle which are causing one tree to grow at an angle to reach the light.

Residents can also play a part in improving the health of our street trees by volunteering to

adopt a tree outside of their property and keeping the base weed-free and, most importantly, watering the tree in prolonged dry spells.

Trees play an essential role in making our Hill a pleasant place to live in, work in, and visit. They are an attractive feature of our roads, provide a valuable habitat for wildlife, and can even improve property values. We hope you agree that we need to take better care of them.



## Garden Waste



*This, it appears, is not acceptable...*

A member complained that despite leaving a new brown bin on the edge of their property on collection day, they returned home to find it where they had left it – unemptied. On ringing the Council, they were informed that bins had to be clearly visible. Most readers would consider that the bin in the photo below was clearly visible, but apparently it wasn't! It seems that bins must be left completely outside of the property boundary.

Sam Kirk, Strategic Waste & Environment Manager, was subsequently contacted and

explained that unlike the main refuse and recycling service where every household has black and green bins, this is not the case for the garden waste collection. As this subscription based service is new and voluntary, relatively few households have brown bins, so until the men collecting the waste get to know which households are using the service, it's a question of driving around slowly trying to spot the bins. That must be even more difficult as residents may not put them out every week if they are not full. Hopefully, over time the situation will improve as more of us start to use the service.

## New faces

*Tina Hildred – our new secretary*

Tina is a recent arrival to Forest Hill although she did live on Honor Oak Road for a brief period in the 1980s so already appreciated the special nature of the area and its amazing views. She hopes that as TLERA Secretary she will quickly get to know her new neighbours and be involved in local issues and events. She worked latterly as a Company Secretary for a listed property company but is now enjoying retirement and the opportunities it gives for travel and skiing. She has joined the TLERA Garden Group to find inspiration and help to try and create a garden out of the builders' rubble and patchy lawn that she has inherited. Other interests include speaking French and hill walking, both of which she has found can easily be improved locally. She lives with her husband, Mark, who is also retired.



*Frankie Locke – our new co-secretary*

My partner Steve and I moved to this lovely hill in 2004 and it was great to find a note through the door telling us about TLERA. I'm now going to 'jobshare' with Tina as Secretary for the Association. I joined the garden group as soon as we came here and have benefited



enormously from their expertise and lots of plants shared over the years. After encouragement from the group I was persuaded to open our garden for the NGS and have

done that now for several years. I want children to enjoy our garden, so have things like a story trail and chickens, since I used to be a teacher and miss that aspect of the job (but not the inspections and paperwork!) I'm keen to be involved in establishing various TLERA garden events to mark the seasons and make the most of the lovely gardens we are so lucky to have up here on the Hill.

*Cathy Ruiz – a new road representative*

I have lived with my husband Leon in Forest Hill since 1985. We moved to Netherby Road 21 years ago. In addition to the wonderful views and range of green spaces, we have always



valued the sense of community in the area. Our boys were brought up here and we have made many good friends amongst our neighbours. I have recently retired from a career in education and am enjoying having time to become more involved in local community life. We have recently acquired a delightful miniature Schnauser called Axel so I spend a great deal of time walking in the area. The rest of my time is spent on voluntary work at St Christopher's Hospice, fulfilling my role as a school governor, gardening, reading, Pilates, and travelling as the opportunity arises.

*This newsletter was compiled and edited by Valerie Ward, and proof read by Carole Abrahams. Design and layout by Michael Schlingmann. Contributions from members are very welcome and can be e-mailed to us at secretary@tewkesbury-lodge.org.uk*