

Views from the Hill



NEWSLETTER OF THE TEWKESBURY LODGE ESTATE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION August 2023

Green it, we mean it...



We are all loving and enjoying the colourful new planters springing up over the Estate. The planting is truly inspired. A big thank you to all those involved in starting the project, planting the planters and then maintaining them together with regular watering.



Date for your diary

Autumn Lunch and Apple Pressing
Saturday 28th October
At Hilltop, 28 Horniman Drive
12:00 - 16:00

Worried about CPZ? Come and join us

Membership is only £5.00
per household!
See details on pages 5 & 7

What TLERA is about:

- Maintaining and improving the character and quality of the Estate
- Holding a range of social events to bring people together
- Identifying, considering and responding to planning applications or developments on the Estate and wider area of Forest Hill
- Participating in organisations working for improvement in police, council and other local services
- Keeping members informed of local issues, developments and the activities of the Association on a regular basis

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Beating the scammers

Scams are now the most frequent crime and they are evolving all the time. It can feel they are largely unrecognised as 'proper crime' but the impact on the individual can be huge.



Fraudsters will target those who are less tech savvy. They are clever and have an ability to hook into our concerns. Because it involves you being fooled into participating in some way, it can leave you feeling ashamed and inadequate. As a consequence, a lot of people don't admit they have been scammed. Almost 21 million reports have been made to the

Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS), resulting in the removal of over 235,000 malicious websites and, as of 31 May 2023, 54,000 text message scams have been removed as a result of suspicious texts being forwarded. I believe that a lot of people don't report texts, so this number could be much higher.

Our Estate has a sizeable population of older people who have been living here many years, some of whom are living on their own. It is much harder to deal with these issues if you have no one in the household to turn for support. If you have a neighbour in this position, let them know you are always willing to assist them, should they have a concern about a text, an email or a phone call.

My Top Tips:

- It is best to start from the position of **BE SUSPICIOUS OF EVERYTHING**
- For any email or text message think first: "Did I give these people my e-mail address or mobile phone number?" If you didn't, then it is a scam.
- If you have a mobile phone you will get scam texts at some stage. Don't worry if you are not sure whether it is a scam or not; just forward them on, if you think them to be

suspicious, to the number 7726 which is free. Remember no government department, bank or Amazon will contact you via SMS text message.

- NEVER click on a link in a mobile phone text message, unless you are absolutely certain it's genuine.
- If you get an email which looks suspicious, go to the top where you can see the address of the sender. Inspect this carefully. A typical scam email will turn out to have an address quite different from that of the person who claims to be sending it to you. Forward suspicious emails to report@phishing.gov.uk. Again, you don't need to be certain, let them check it out.
- A common scam is a phone call from a sympathetic sounding individual concerned that there has been a fraudulent activity on your account. They are very plausible claiming to be from your bank, broadband provider, Amazon, etc. They are skilled, polite and manipulative. Most of us feel we are being rude if we don't give people the opportunity to explain themselves. We can then get embroiled into a deeper conversation. They will pick up on your ambivalence or confusion and build on that. They will often give you a number so that you can ring to check out who they are. DO NOT use this number. You might, however, be worried that this is a genuine phone call. Stick to your resolve. Tell them you are concerned this is a scam and you will not be hassled into responding to this, or just put the phone down.
- If you are concerned, wait a while - then ring the company/bank getting their number from their official website or from a printed communication e.g. bank statement. Scammers can intercept your phone line and leave it open for some time. If you have a spare phone - landline or mobile - use that instead.
- If you've lost money or provided personal information as a result of a phishing scam, notify your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040

ALWAYS TRUST YOUR INSTINCT. Is there something fishy about this? In any doubt at all DON'T DO IT. If you are worried or confused about what to do TLERA Committee members are happy to talk things through with you. Just give someone a ring.
christinem.noon@gmail.com

Ukraine update

Our Spring newsletter reported on the work of the Siobhan's Trust in the Ukraine that Ian Jamieson is supporting. Many residents were very inspired by his work and donated items and funding to help. Here is a bit of an update.



Ian is recently back from Ukraine. This time he journeyed first to Kyiv. He was struck by how people there had moved on from the Soviet era and are now Western in their approach. Each of the nights he was there, he had to go down into the shelters; quickly finding that sleep deprivation is very hard going. The people there have had one and a half years of this. His group then drove 10 hours south to various places liberated from the Russians, including Kherson. Many of these places were riddled with land mines and every single building destroyed. But the Ukrainians are very determined to bring towns and villages back to what they were and where possible windows (amazingly) had been completely replaced. They also visited a military cemetery which was very sobering. Each grave has a Ukrainian flag. There were thousands of new flags and also freshly dug graves in anticipation of further deaths.

Siobhan's Trust now has strong connections with the military and police – who can direct and assist them in reaching the places with greatest need. A roof over their heads for people who've lost their homes and food are the absolute essentials, but there is also a huge need to help with PTSD. There is now an app parents can download to help children with PTSD and the QR code for the app is on the pizza vans. the Trust is really beginning to grow, gain traction and get noticed. In 18 months it has gone from a very small operation to a significant player. The pizza vans are now familiar behind the frontline and with their contacts the Trust are able to really see what is going on and

become an umbrella to help all sorts of people in many different ways. So their work is very well-focused and they are able to react quickly to immediate crises; such as bombing of Nova Kakhovka dam where they took pizzas out in rubber dinghies. There is considerable buy-in from large organisations and big brands such as Coca-Cola and Pepsi. Ian has now become one of the charity's trustees.

In terms of humanitarian aid there is a tendency to think just about women and children. Many of the soldiers are very young, not more than teenagers. Soldiers are just ordinary people – defending their homeland. They have been on the frontline for months and need very basic things such as soap and dealing with lice. They are eating military rations, so anything to spice up their food would make a real difference. The Trust got some Haribo sweets delivered to the frontline – this really raised morale. Ian flagged up a couple of crucial issues that he is working on. Many soldiers now die on the front line as they have not got simple medical equipment such as tourniquets. Many of their injuries are from shrapnel from Russian shells. So often



with two or three shrapnel injuries on their limbs they don't have enough tourniquets which is then fatal. Ian is trying to get in touch with one or two medical outlets with the objective of providing at least four tourniquets to each soldier. Another major concern is cholera. Handy bottles of purification liquid are now available. Just one drop of liquid will purify an 8 fluid oz bottle of water within a reasonable period of time. This has enormous potential to save lives. Because of Siobhan's Trust logistics and connections, they were able to deliver a truck with a mixture of purification tablets and liquid to potentially clean 2.5 million litres of water which cost only £3600.

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The Trust is in most need of funding. Supply lines are now pretty good so it is possible to obtain a lot of things relatively cheaply and quickly. Small amounts of money can make a huge difference and save so many lives. It is unbelievable how difficult life is on the front-line. There are people there with nothing and without enough money to buy clothes. They have lots of pets just running around, so money is needed for dog food, etc. Ian's living room was piled with boxes of your donations waiting to go to a depot for collection which included: cuddly toys, crutches, orthopaedic boots, nappies, paracetamol and Nurofen. On their last visit Ian and his friends took out footballs and rugby balls. It will be winter again soon, so thermals will be needed.

An Operations Manager together with maintenance and logistics staff are based in Ukraine. They haven't received any salary since the war started. The Trust needs to be in a position to pay people for the jobs they do and cannot expect people to work for nothing for ever. There is a good number of volunteers coming through who serve pizza, etc. They have cold

storage in several places which makes the operation easier. As the war intensifies there is also a need to look at safety protocols and issues such as how comprehensive their medical kits are. The Trust also needs to focus on its strategy and to look ahead. They want to stay small enough to remain nimble and be able to move quickly to where they are needed.

The crisis in Ukraine isn't going to end soon. Even when it does there will be a huge need to rebuild. Ian was again very struck by the resilience of the Ukrainian people. They are incredibly grateful for all the help and support, but also say "Don't forget us".

Donations can be made through the Trust's webpage. It would be useful if you can add a reference of TLERA. Please also add in gift aid. Siobhan's Trust are always looking for volunteers to go out to Ukraine. If you are interested and able to fund yourself then please contact the Trust via their website.

<https://siobhanstrust.uk>

Chris Dobb

Oh, the eggs-tasy

Easter Egg Hunt



Once again we were lucky to have lovely weather on Easter Sunday. About eighty people came to hunt eggs and enjoy the spring atmosphere. Some stayed all morning, while children painted egg boxes, fed the chickens and ran egg and spoon races. Many thanks, go to Frankie and Steve for the loan of their house and garden; to the TLERA members who baked delicious cakes; and to those who came to help out on the day. £320 was raised for Demelza - a wonderful local charity providing hospice care for children who are always grateful for our support.

<https://www.demelza.org.uk>

Coronation Big Help Out lunch

There had been discussion on how best to celebrate the Coronation Bank Holiday weekend. We decided to take up the King's wish for the day to be one of volunteering and charity and to keep in mind the sustainability theme of 'Re-using, Recycling and Repairing'. In the run up to the Coronation we encouraged a 'Right Royal Clearout' to collect items for three charities: Siobhan's Trust which takes nearly new clothes, food and medication out to Ukraine and has a particular connection with the Hill through Ian from Canonbie Road who regularly goes out there. Tools for Self Reliance in Africa which repairs tools and sewing machines and sends





them to charities to set young people up in trades and dressmaking businesses. Thirdly St Christopher's Hospice. There was a huge collection beforehand with many car loads. The finale was a Bank Holiday picnic lunch in the Triangle with a 'clutter sale'. TLERA provided the drinks and everyone brought food to share. All in all it seemed a fitting way to mark the Coronation and was enjoyed by a great many TLERA members.

Frankie Locke

Les Trois Grâces

National Garden Scheme

The four NGS Open Gardens on The Hill had a large number of visitors greatly surpassing expectations. The teas were very popular and cake supplies were exhausted before the end of the day. There was also a high demand for the quality plants on sale. Hundreds of visitors, many cakes consumed and loads raised for health charities - a perfect day. Congratulations to the gardeners and to all the many other volunteers involved. It is hoped that there will be a group opening in 2024; ideally with additional new gardens and more cakes. The NGS also now encourages individual 'pop-ups' which could be more attractive for first timers.



Le Déjeuner sur l'herbe

Sustainable streets and controlled parking

As I reported in our last newsletter, the Council is consulting across the borough on proposals to introduce Controlled Parking Zone (CPZs) together with associated environmental improvements. We are expecting to be consulted in the autumn. In preparation for this, we have conducted a preliminary survey of parking on all TLERA streets. We found that there are areas of congested parking on some streets but plenty of vacant parking on all streets; with at least 300 vacant parking places across our estate as a whole. This shows that we don't need a CPZ scheme. To check our results we will repeat the survey in September. Please let me know if you can give an hour of your time to help with this.

Although we don't need a CPZ, we agree with the Council about the climate emergency and the need to reduce our car use in order to cut CO2 emissions. Our parking survey suggests that we have already reduced car use as the number of vehicles parked outside our houses remains stable throughout the day, evidencing that we do not drive some or part of the way to work as we once did.

We also agree with the Council's plan to plant more street trees. However we don't like the fact that residents will have no choice of the size, species or location of trees. Seven years ago we were very concerned about the state of our pavements. We surveyed our street trees and found that 70% were damaging the full width of the pavement. Some were also damaging garden walls, paths, and causing subsidence to houses. These trees were either large or of medium size: the few small trees were causing no problems. We therefore launched our own programme planting more than 50 small and colourful street trees which TLERA members have nurtured.

We agree with the Council that large trees combat climate change and with that in mind in 2017 we tried to obtain tree preservation orders for all the oak trees in our gardens. The council rejected our application, but when the Telecom Mast site was considered as a possible site for development in 2022 we successfully objected on the grounds that such a development would destroy a number of mature oak trees. We have also taken the lead in planting large trees on the Horniman Triangle. We funded the first of the new trees and wrote text for the subsequent successful grant application for 37 trees.

Stuart Checkley

Planning



*The radio mast on
Horniman Drive*

Members will be aware that the Mast Site (the green area between the Telecom site in Horniman Drive and Havelock House on Honor Oak Road) had been allocated as a site for housing development in Lewisham's draft Local Plan. During the consultation, the Association and many members objected to this, mainly on environmental grounds. The very good news is that this site is no longer included in the Plan (proposed submission document) which should save this green space and its mature oak trees and wildlife from development. A small but significant victory

for our area. The Council will submit the Plan to the Secretary of State for final approval.

There have been no developments regarding the reservoir site, although it is noted that a large part of the site is now covered in black plastic preventing the recovery of wildlife following the destructive clearance. Residents backing onto the site remain very concerned and the Council is fully aware of the situation.

The Horniman Museum has added 26 associated documents to their planning application to Lewisham Council for their proposed development works. The decision by Lewisham is awaited. To view them go to the Planning page on Lewisham's website – ref DC/23/130987

City Airport expansion rejected

The airport had proposed to extend its operating hours on Saturdays to allow take-offs and landing up until 6.30pm, alongside three additional early morning flights. Under a 25 year curfew, flights are not allowed from 12.30pm Saturday to 12.30pm Sunday to provide respite for nearby residents. The airport argued extended hours were key to incentivising airlines to speed up investment in 'new generation' aircraft that are quieter on departure, and that it would help meet increased passenger

demand. However, Newham Council has rejected the proposals after hearing that the introduction of extra flights would 'result in a materially new and substantial harm' through noise pollution. Objectors also raised concerns about increased carbon emissions. In all there were objections from 1600 local residents and eight other London councils. The application will now be referred to the GLA for a final decision in what is termed a 'Stage 2 referral'.

Traffic

A new pedestrian crossing has been installed on Forest Hill Road which should improve safety. Less safe is Langton Rise Roundabout -

members are warned that this is not a safe roundabout - there have been several accidents at this junction over one weekend recently. Improved signage is required.

Horniman Tree Trails

Trees such as the Wollemi Pine, Giant Sequoia and Weeping Narrow Leaved Ash are to be found in Horniman Gardens from online trails on their website. A trail along the Nature Reserve helps you to identify all more familiar

trees such as London plane, Sycamore and English Oak. It is intriguing to think that some of the fruit trees along the old railway track started from cherry stones and apple cores thrown from train windows!

<https://www.horniman.ac.uk/search/trees>

Birdsfoot trefoil



No Mow and Less Spray

The Council left the grass in the Rocombe Crescent Triangle uncut at my request and as part of No Mow May. As a result we have had lots of wildflowers and wild grasses. Violets in the spring and then Birdsfoot trefoil, Hawkbit and other flowers in the summer. Later in the summer the main interest was the grasses and there should be more flowers later in the autumn.

Less popular is the Council's widespread spraying of tree pits and Ringmore Rise Green which has destroyed plants cultivated to improve the area. Street Trees for Living have also raised concerns. It was noted that trees were unlikely to be harmed by the spraying and that bulbs should also recover. The Garden Group are looking into this and hope to discuss alternative options for Ringmore Rise Green.
Stuart Checkley



*Canada geese in formation.
Photograph by Steve Beard from his bedroom window one June morning*

Have you paid your membership subscription yet?

If you haven't, then you're not alone. A number of residents who were members in the past have not yet renewed. But it's not too late! The most common reason that members fail to renew is that they have lost their subscription envelope. If so, all you need to do is take any plain envelope and write your name(s) and address on it, then put £5 inside and drop it through the letter-box of your road rep, (see the list on the back page of this newsletter). If you can't remember whether you've paid or not, just contact me and I'll let you know.

Please note that if you prefer to pay by Bank Transfer you must use the unique reference assigned to your address, which is on the subscription envelope. If you don't use the correct reference I cannot guarantee that your payment will be validated. A final note: it really helps if you use block capitals for your names and email address.

If you have just moved into the area, do contact your road rep for an information pack.
Carole Abrahams, Membership Secretary
carole@abrahams.org.uk

Annual General Meeting

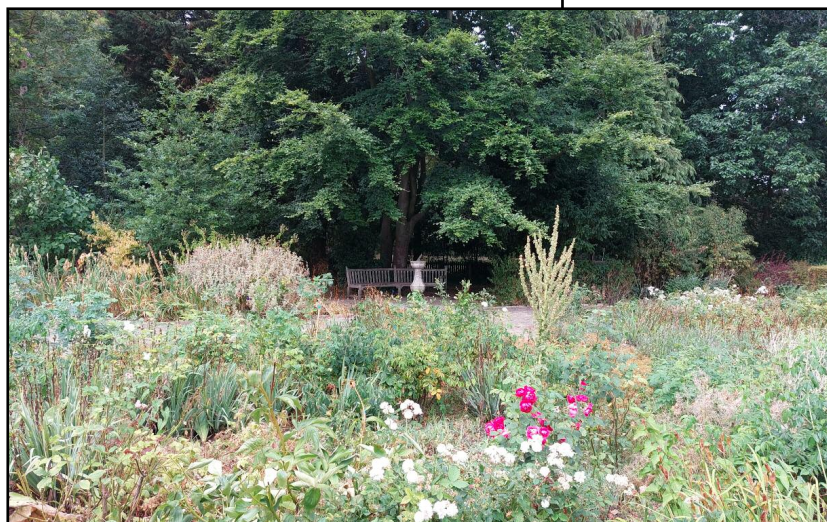
No date has been fixed as we are awaiting details on the proposed controlled parking zone which is a major issue for residents.

A separate notice for the AGM will be delivered to all households anon.

Sexby Garden

A short walk away down the hill are the many attractions for all ages in the 113 acres of Peckham Rye Park and Common. They include a children's playground; adventure playground and playroom; café; skatepark; ornamental and water gardens; a lake; and the Japanese Garden. A particular gem is the Sexby Garden. Opened in 1894, it was redeveloped in 1936 and restored in 2004-5 with a Heritage Lottery Fund grant. Named after horticulturist and first Superintendent of London County Council Parks Department, Lt-Colonel J.J. Sexby, it is set out in a formal style, with fountains, paving, pergola structures, and benches around its edge. The wisteria-topped pergola provides a cinematic entrance. However the planting is quite informal and provides interest and colour across the seasons. It is an attractive and peaceful place to sit.

Road Doctors Surgery and the Co-op.
There you will find a map of the park to get your bearings. On the walk back are various cafes along Peckham Rye and up Forest Hill Road.
Chris Dobb



I recommend starting from the Elms Entrance next to the traffic lights close to the Forest Hill

Changes at the top



Valerie has now swapped places with me, becoming Co-chair and myself Chair. We all owe Valerie a tremendous debt of gratitude, steering us through some difficult times and developing the influence of the Association. All her experience and knowledge will still be available and she will still be playing a full part in the work and activities of TLERA.

Stuart Checkley

I moved to Ringmore Rise, in August 1988. The house was built in the 1930s and little had changed to the interior since then. However, the spectacular views over and beyond London to the North Downs well made up for all the work that was

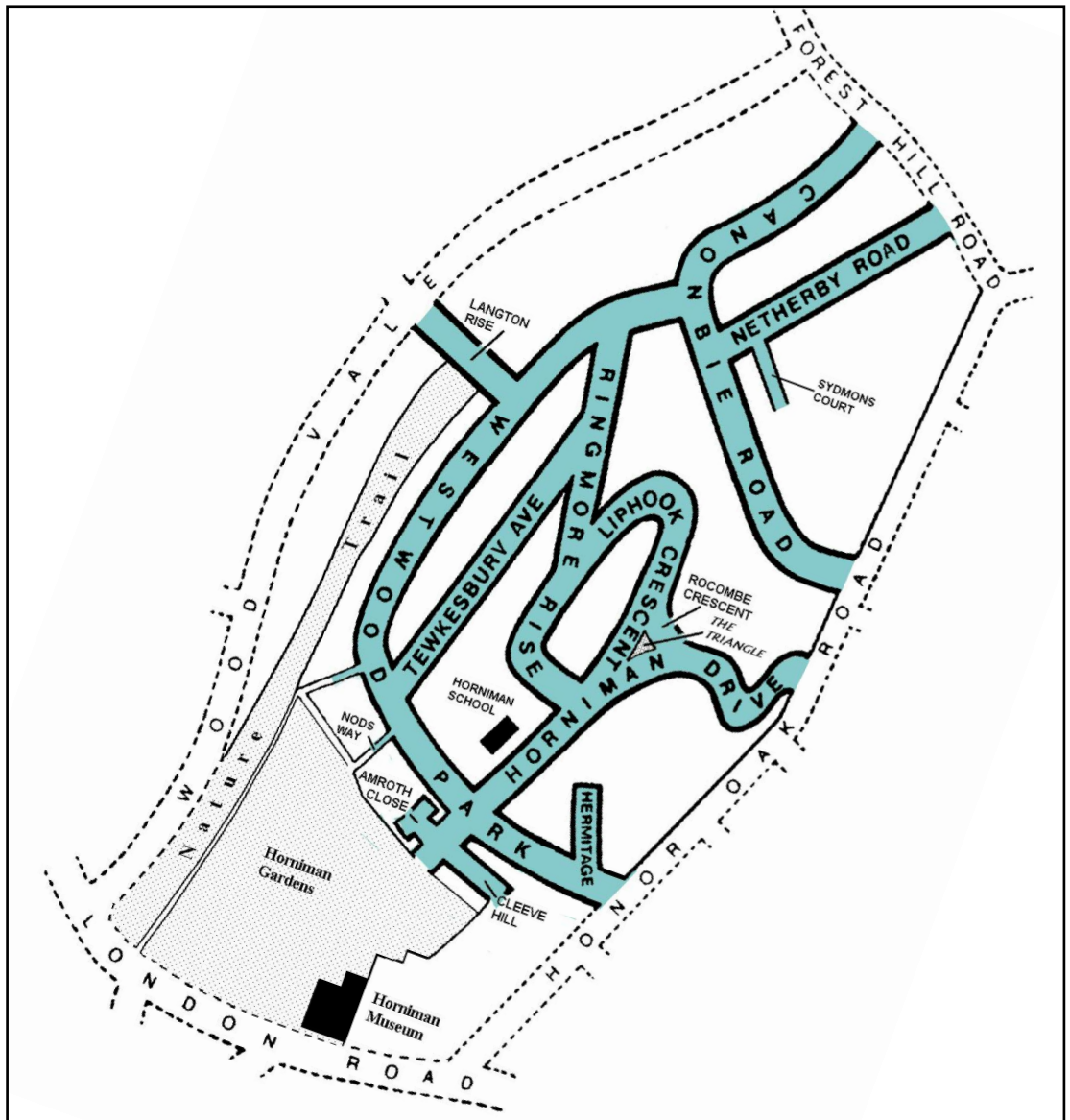
needed. So, I signed on the dotted line!
Soon after moving in, a notice went around

about a Residents Association meeting at Horniman Primary School so I went along to find out more. Everyone was friendly and welcoming and I was impressed when I heard more about the Association. There was a vacancy for a Ringmore Rise road rep and, when nobody volunteered, I put up my hand up. And the rest as they say, is history - because 35 years later I am still the road rep!

Over the years I took on various other roles whilst remaining a road rep, ranging from social activities co-ordinator, newsletter editor, police liaison, vice chair, and finally Chair in 1998. But the time has now come to pass that baton on, and I am delighted to say Stuart Checkley agreed to take that role on with me now acting as – Co-Chair.

Meanwhile, I will continue as the Ringmore Rise road rep until someone volunteers to take over – no reasonable offer refused!

Valerie Ward



Contributions to the newsletter are very welcome and can be emailed to:
secretary@tewkesburylodge.org.uk